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# THE OBLONG BOX

EDGAR ALLEN POE

A WEIRD, HARROWING  
ADVENTURE OFF STORMY  
CAPE HATTERAS AS TOLD  
BY THE GRAND MASTER  
OF MYSTERY FICTION!

--- WHAT NAMELESS  
DREAD HAUNTED THIS  
ARTIST WHO BROUGHT  
THE OBLONG BOX  
ABOARD THE  
"INDEPENDENCE"?  
CAPTAIN HARDY KNEW  
ITS GRIM SECRET  
BUT DARED NOT TELL  
A SOUL!

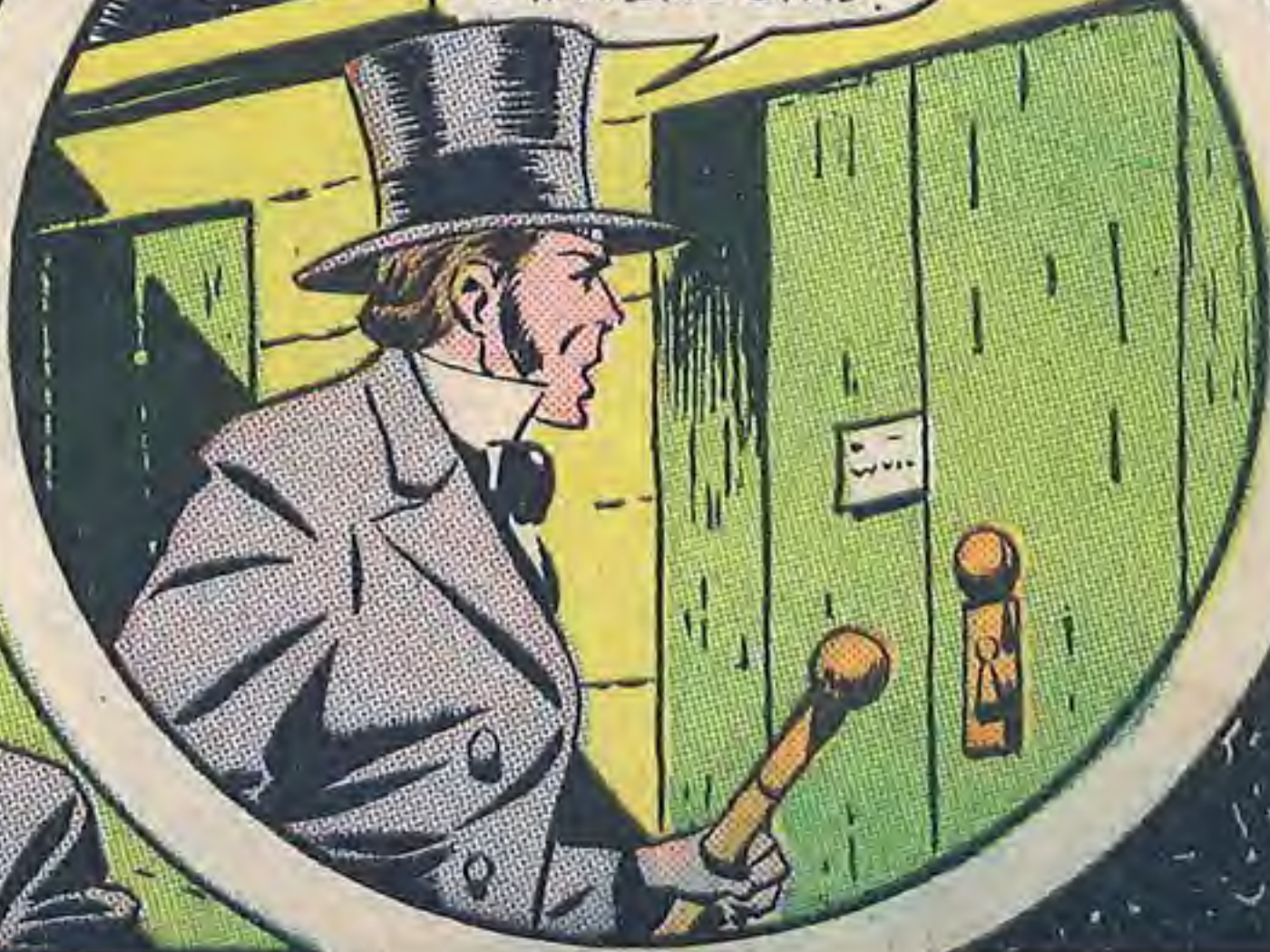


THIS STRANGE TALE BEGAN IN CHARLESTON,  
SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE YEAR 1840---

YES, MR. POE, WE  
SAIL FOR NEW  
YORK TOMORROW!

FINE, CAPTAIN HARDY...  
I'LL GO ABOARD AND  
ARRANGE MY  
STATEROOM!

THAT'S ODD--  
WHY HAS MY ARTIST  
FRIEND, WYATT,  
ENGAGED THREE  
STATEROOMS?





WYATT, HIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BRIDE, AND HIS TWO SISTERS... BUT EACH HAS TWO BERTHS! WHY A THIRD STATEROOM?



CORNELIUS WYATT, ESQ

AH, WYATT! GOOD DAY, SIR... I'M ANXIOUS TO MEET YOUR BRIDE!

ER, MRS. WYATT IS ILL TODAY, BUT SHE'LL BE ABOARD TOMORROW!



THE NEXT DAY, AS POE LEFT HIS HOTEL...

SORRY, MR. POE, WE AREN'T SAILING TODAY!

HUH?... BUT THE WEATHER IS IDEAL, CAP'N. WHAT'S WRONG?



CAN'T MENTION IT, MR. POE. WE'LL SAIL IN A DAY OR TWO!

WELL, OF COURSE IF YOU'D RATHER NOT! BUT IT SEEMS RATHER STRANGE!



NEARLY A WEEK PASSED BEFORE THE "INDEPENDENCE" WAS READY TO SAIL...

HMM... WYATT'S PARTY IS ABOARD... THERE'LL BE TROUBLE ABOARD THIS VOYAGE!



POE IS ANXIOUS TO MEET MY WIFE... WILL YOU INTRODUCE HER TO HIM, MARIAM?

WHY, ER--YES OF COURSE!



POE WAS SEIZED BY A SUDDEN DISAPPOINTMENT AFTER ONE LOOK AT HIS FRIENDS WIFE...

HOW DO YOU DO, MR. POE!

CHARMED TO MEET YOU, MADAM... YOUR HUSBAND HAS SPOKEN OF YOU SO OFTEN!





EERIE FOREBODINGS OF EVIL  
STIRRED IN POE'S BRAIN----

GOOD HEAVENS! CAN SHE BE  
WYATT'S BRIDE? THE ARTIST  
IN HIM IMAGINES HER  
BEAUTIFUL!...NO, I FEAR  
ALL'S NOT WELL---

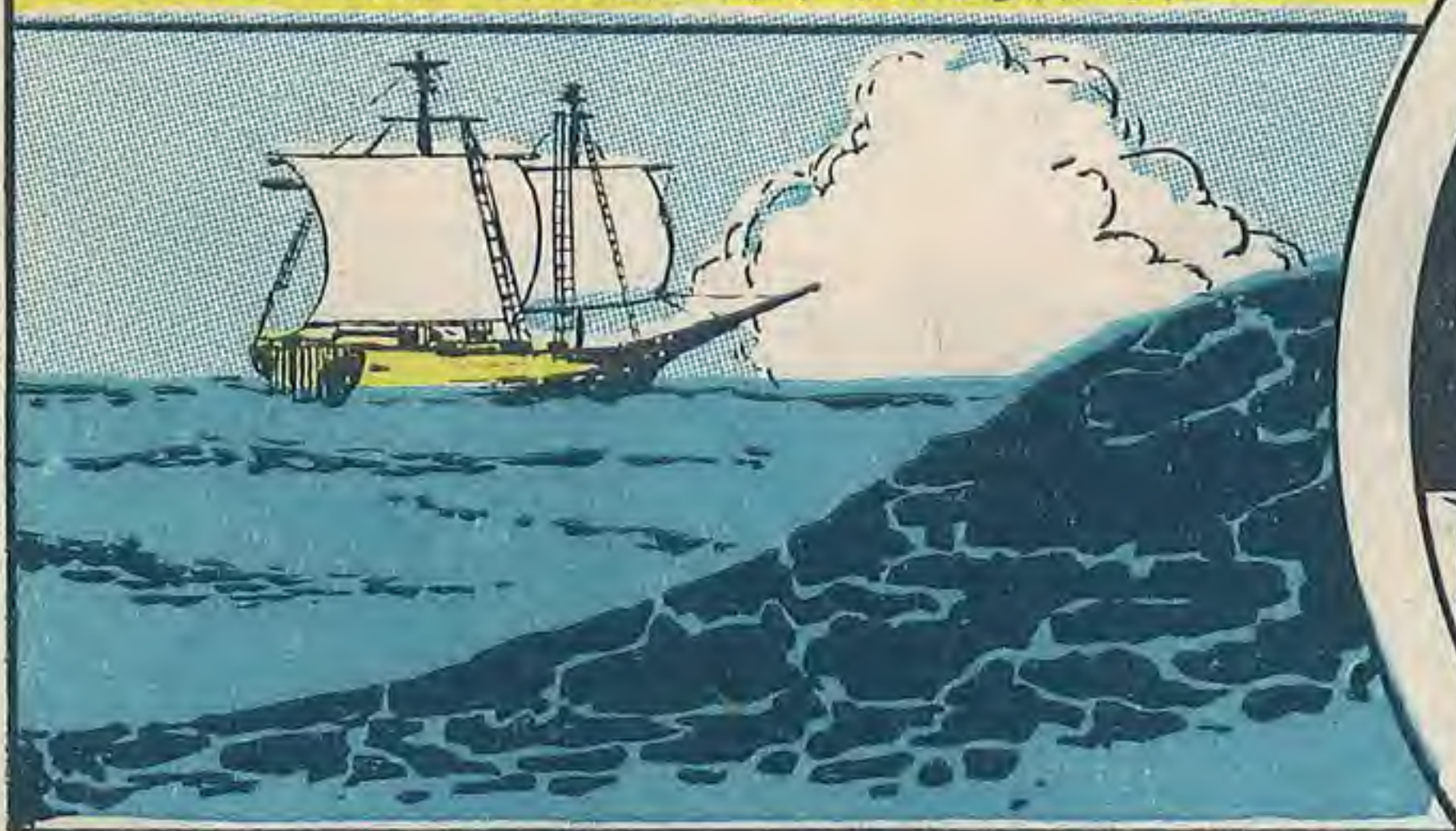
AND HIS DREAD IS DOUBLED AS WYATT'S BAGGAGE  
CAME ABOARD---

STOW THE BOX  
IN MY STATEROOM,  
MEN!

WHAT COULD THAT CONTAIN?  
HIS PAINTING? WYATT'S  
ACT IS MOST  
PECULIAR!



WITH THE OBLONG BOX ABOARD, CAPTAIN HARDY  
GOT HIS SHIP UNDER WAY IMMEDIATELY----



LATE, THAT EVENING--

SO FAR...WE'VE  
AROUSED NO  
SUSPICION!

YES, GOOD  
NIGHT, MR.  
WYATT!



THE MYSTERY DEEPENS!  
HIS WIFE CALLS HIM MR.  
WYATT AND OCCUPIES THE  
THIRD STATEROOM ALONE!  
I WONDER WHY HE DIDN'T  
STOW THE OBLONG BOX  
WITH THE CARGO?



IN THE DEAD OF THE  
NIGHT, POE WAS AWAKENED  
BY QUEER SOUNDS...

GOOD HEAVENS! WYATT'S  
PRYING OPEN THE  
OBLONG BOX IN HIS  
STATEROOM!



GRUESOME NIGHTMARES  
TORTURED POE'S SLEEP  
TILL DAYBREAK----

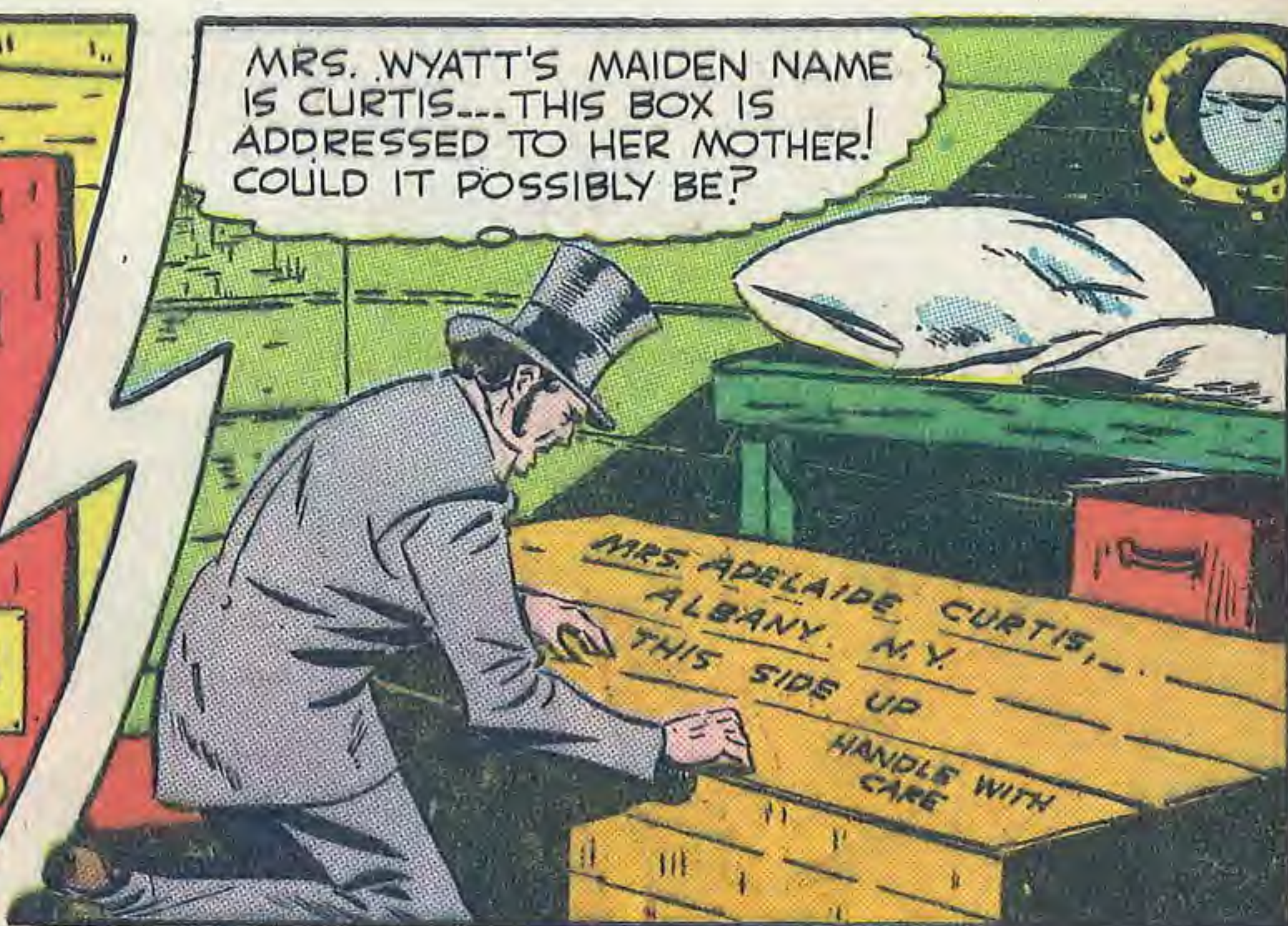
WYATT'S SURELY MAD  
NOW... HE'S NAILING  
DOWN THE BOX WITH  
A MUFFLED Mallet...  
I MUST LEARN WHAT'S  
CONCEALED IN IT!







NOW'S MY CHANCE  
WHILE THEY'RE AT  
BREAKFAST...AH, THIS  
KEY FITS!



MRS. WYATT'S MAIDEN NAME  
IS CURTIS...THIS BOX IS  
ADDRESSED TO HER MOTHER!  
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?



ER...AHEM! GOOD MORNING,  
POE!

UH, OH,  
HELLO,  
COLONEL, I'M  
FASTENING  
THIS AT WYATT'S  
REQUEST!

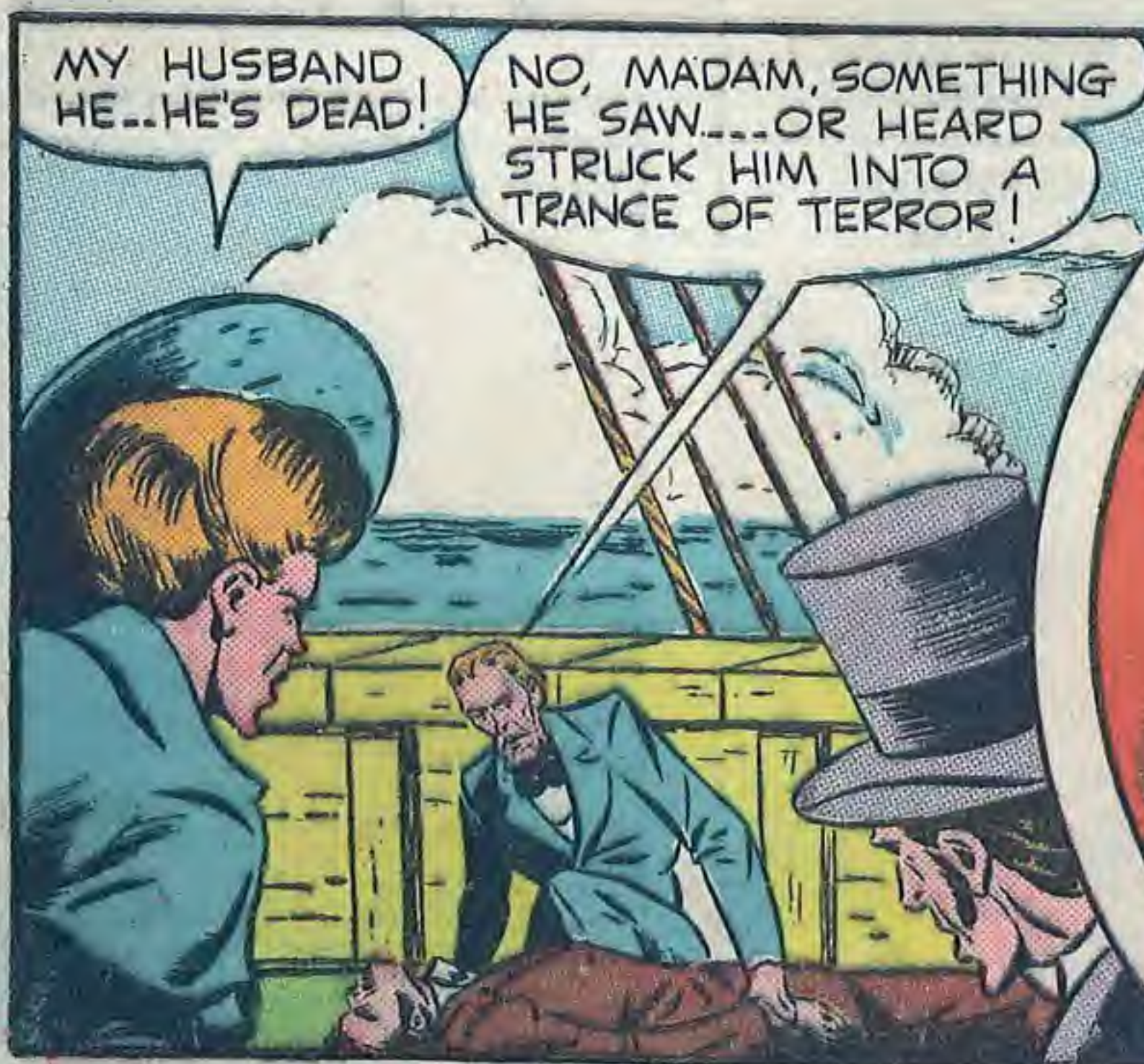


LUCKY FOR ME THE  
COLONEL IS CLOSED  
MOUTH!...THERE'S WYATT..  
I'LL TRY QUESTIONING  
HIM!



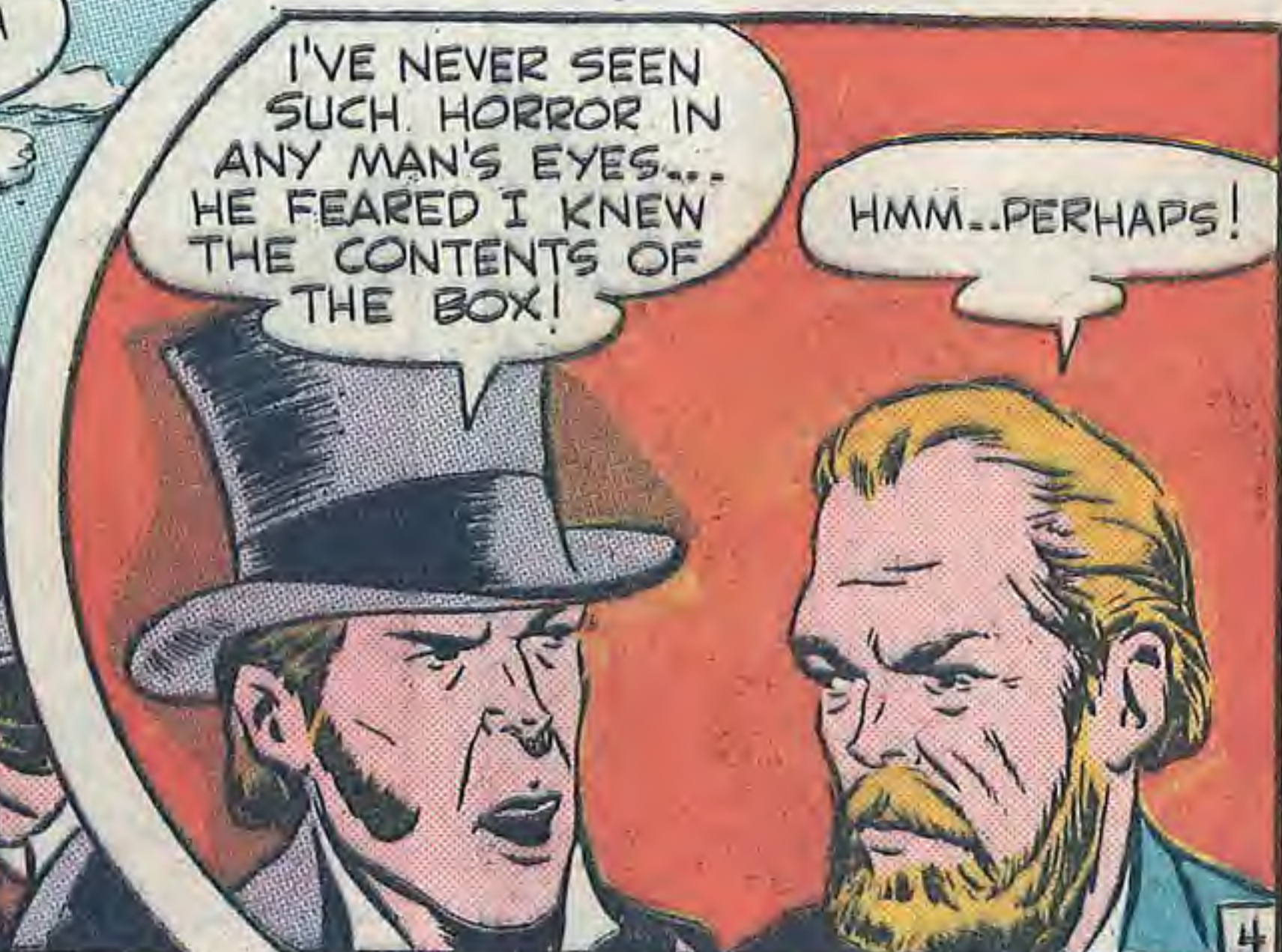
QUESTIONED ABOUT THE BOX,  
WYATT PALED SUDDENLY AND  
COLLAPSED...

GOOD HEAVENS, MAN! I  
DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOCK  
YOU...HERE, SOMEONE  
LEND A HAND!



MY HUSBAND  
HE...HE'S DEAD!

NO, MADAM, SOMETHING  
HE SAW...OR HEARD  
STRUCK HIM INTO A  
TRANCE OF TERROR!



I'VE NEVER SEEN  
SUCH HORROR IN  
ANY MAN'S EYES...  
HE FEARED I KNEW  
THE CONTENTS OF  
THE BOX!

HMM...PERHAPS!





NEARING CAPE HATTERAS, THE SHIP  
RAN INTO A HOWLING GALE---

ALL HANDS MAN  
THE PUMPS!

HATTERAS, THE  
GRAVEYARD OF A  
THOUSAND SHIPS!  
WILL WE  
SURVIVE, CAP'N?

MAKE WAY  
BELOW  
THE TOP!  
MASTS  
FALLING!



WHAT'S THAT? YOU  
FEARED WHAT WOULD  
JINX THIS VOYAGE?

ALL HANDS  
ON DECK!  
LOWER THE  
BOATS!



ABANDON  
SHIP!

GOOD LORD,  
WE'LL ALL BE  
DROWNED!



NO, WAIT! WE MUST  
GO BACK FOR THE  
OBLONG BOX!

WYATT! ARE  
YOU MAD?

WE CAN'T  
DO IT, SIR!



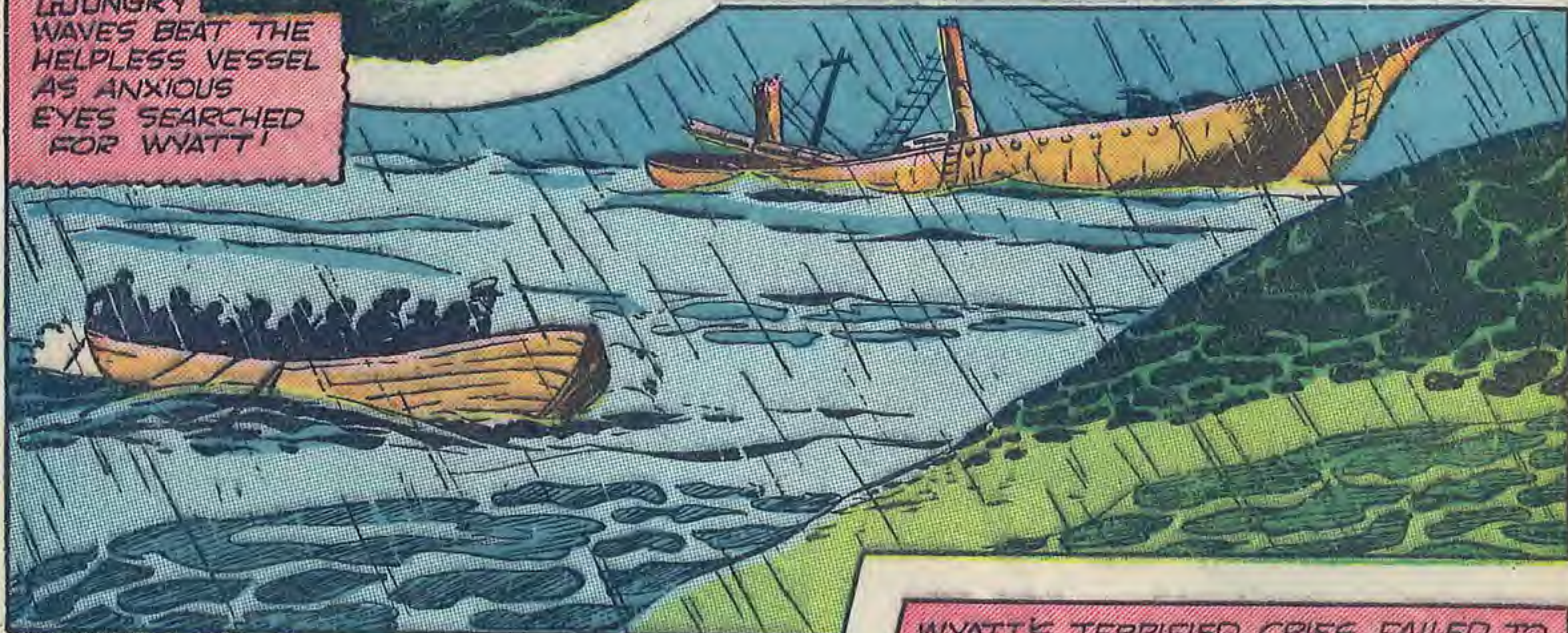
YOU CAN'T  
MAKE IT, WYATT!  
COME BACK!

STAND BY—  
I'VE GOT TO  
SAVE THAT  
BOX!





**H**UNGRY WAVES BEAT THE HELPLESS VESSEL AS ANXIOUS EYES SEARCHED FOR WYATT!



WYATT'S TERRIFIED CRIES FAILED TO PIERCE THE HOWLING GALE---







THEY LEFT ME TO DROWN!  
BUT WE CANNOT BE  
PARTED, EVEN IN  
DEATH!



TO THE BOTTOM  
OF THE SEA—  
TOGETHER!



THE ROPE AROUND  
HIM WAS TIED TO  
THE BOX! HIS  
BODY WILL NEVER  
BE WASHED  
ASHORE!

NO! THEY'LL  
SOON RISE—  
BUT NOT  
UNTIL THE  
SALT MELTS!



SO, YOU'RE  
NOT WYATT'S  
WIFE?

SHHH!  
DON'T LET  
THE OTHERS  
HEAR...THEY  
WOULD NOT HAVE  
TAKEN USHAD. THEY  
KNOW!



ALL SAFELY  
ASHORE...!  
THANK GOD!

CAPTAIN  
HARDY—  
I'LL HAVE  
A WORD  
WITH  
YOU!



YES, WYATT'S BRIDE DIED  
THE DAY WE WERE TO  
SAIL...I GAVE IN TO HIS  
PLEA TO BRING THE  
CORPSE!

I SEE, AND HER BODY  
WAS PACKED IN SALT!  
WAS SHE AS BEAUTIFUL  
AS HE SAID?



YES,  
MR. POE,  
SHE WAS THE  
MOST BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN I EVER  
SAW!

I BELIEVE  
I UNDERSTAND  
NOW! POOR  
WYATT!

The  
End



# MASTER MARVIN

"MAWSTER MARVIN—  
RIVERS IS CALLING YOU!  
OH-OH— HERE COMES  
MARVIN AND IS HE IN  
TROUBLE AGAIN."

PRIVATE  
KEPE OUT

OFFICE

FAGALY  
KAPITAN

AT THE VAN-  
UP MANSION  
ONE  
EVENING!

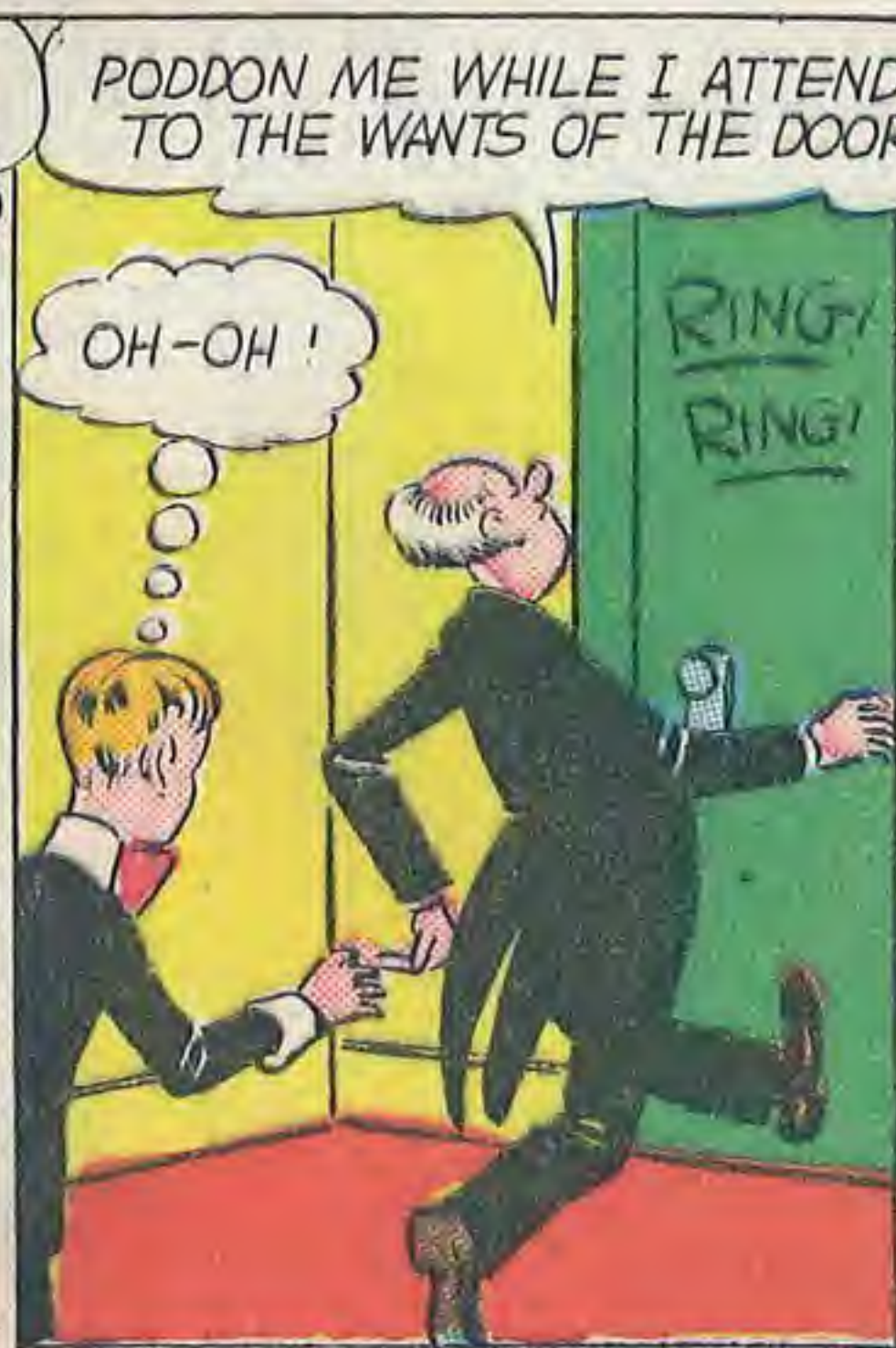
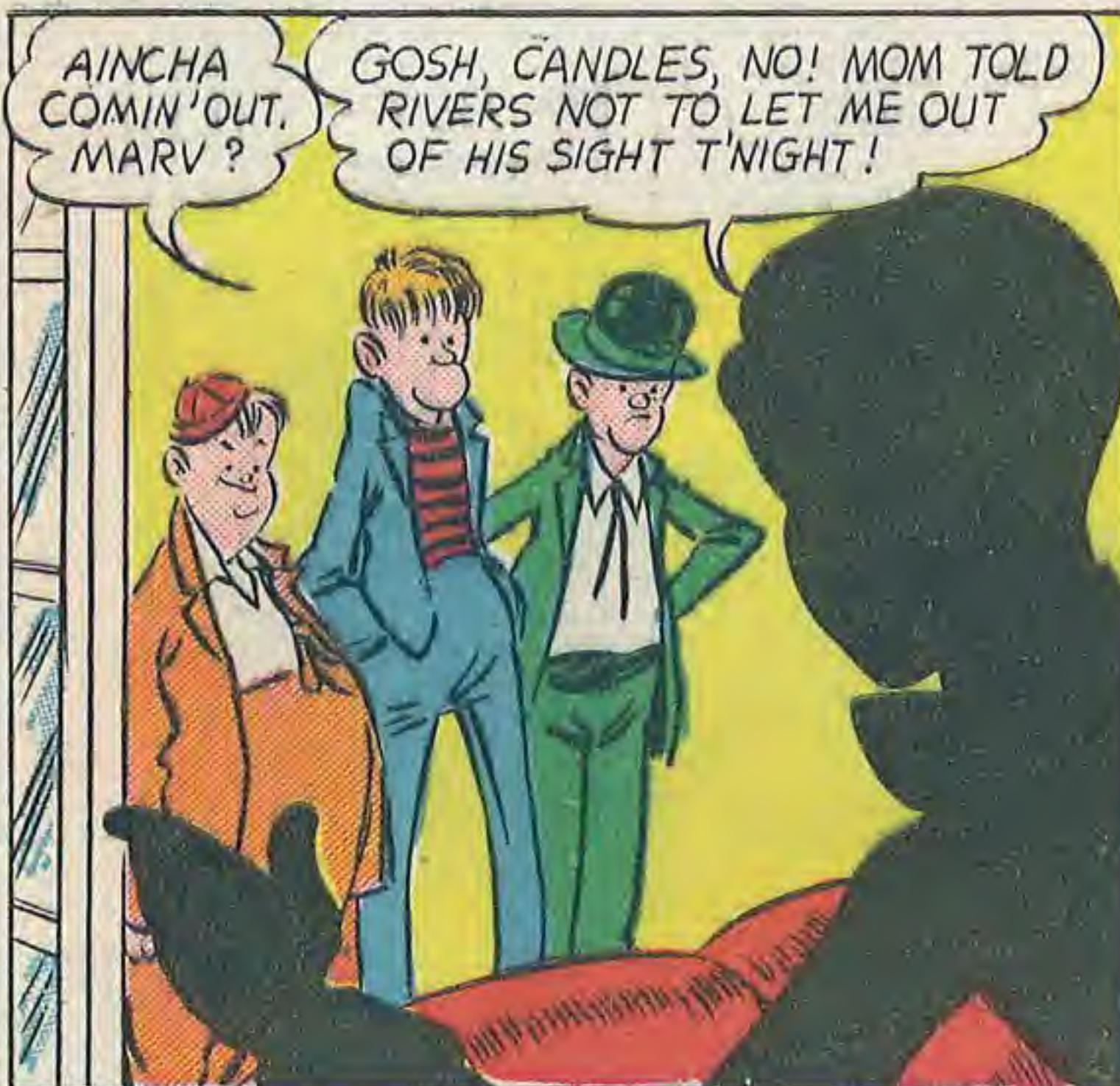
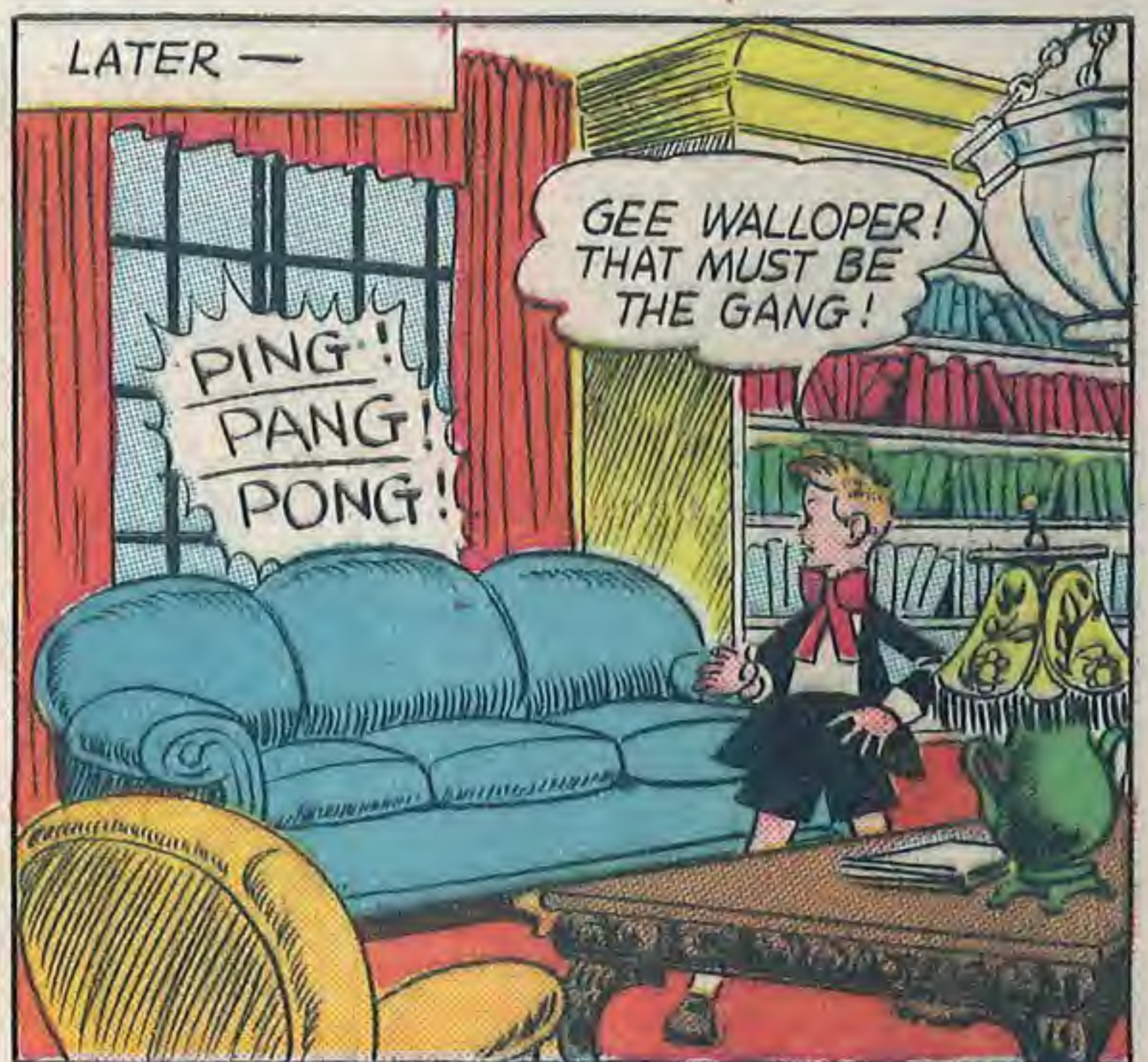
NO, MARVIN! I DISTINCTLY  
SAID YOU CANNOT GO OUT  
WHILE YOUR FATHER AND  
I ARE AT THE OPERA! I'M  
SIMPLY DYING TO SHOW OFF  
MY FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR  
NECKLACE!

AW— BUT  
MOTHER—

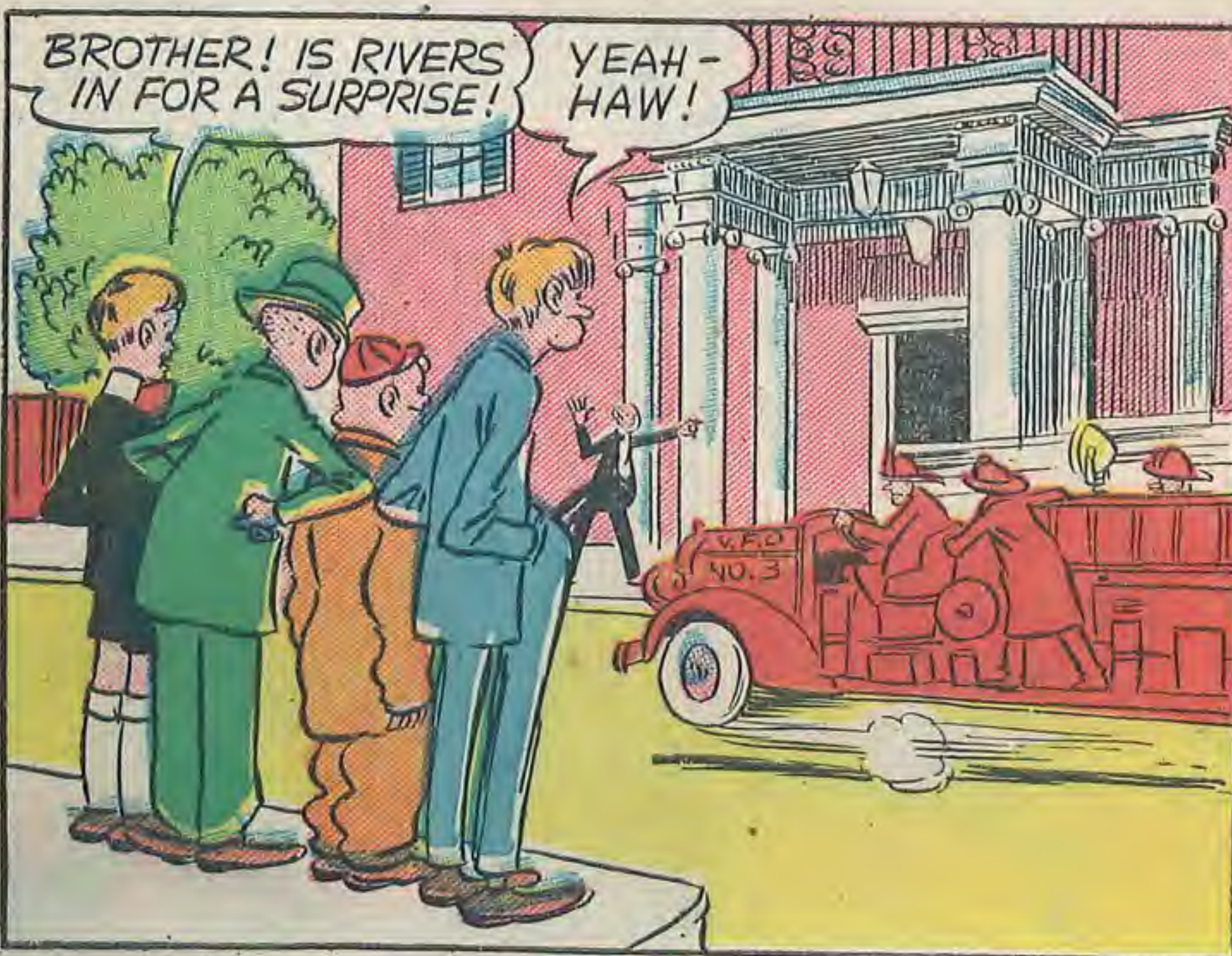
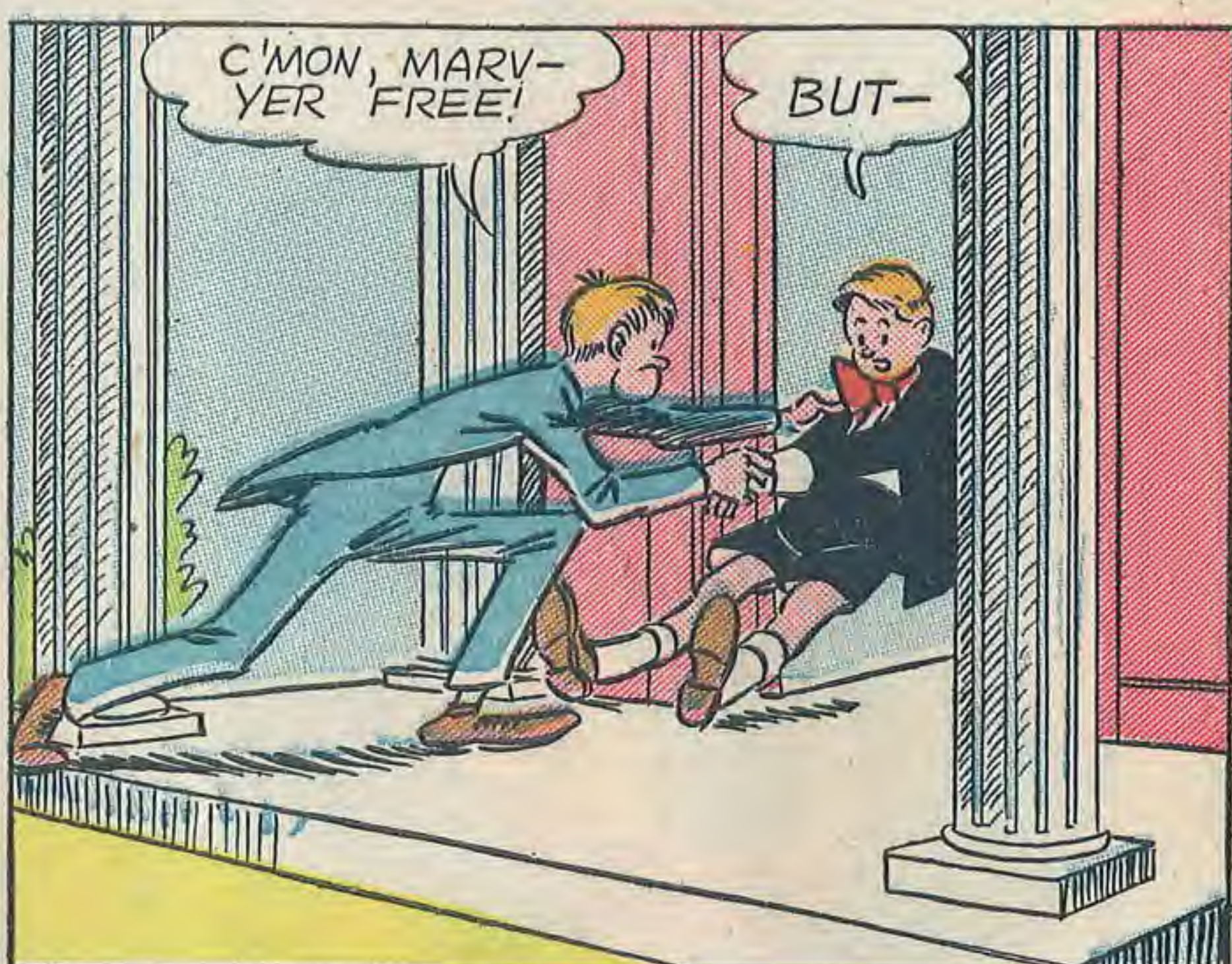
THAT'S FINAL, MARVIN! AND I'M  
INSTRUCTING RIVERS NOT TO LET  
YOU OUT OF HIS SIGHT! OH  
RIVERS! RIVERS!

SHUCKS'N  
EVERYTHING!

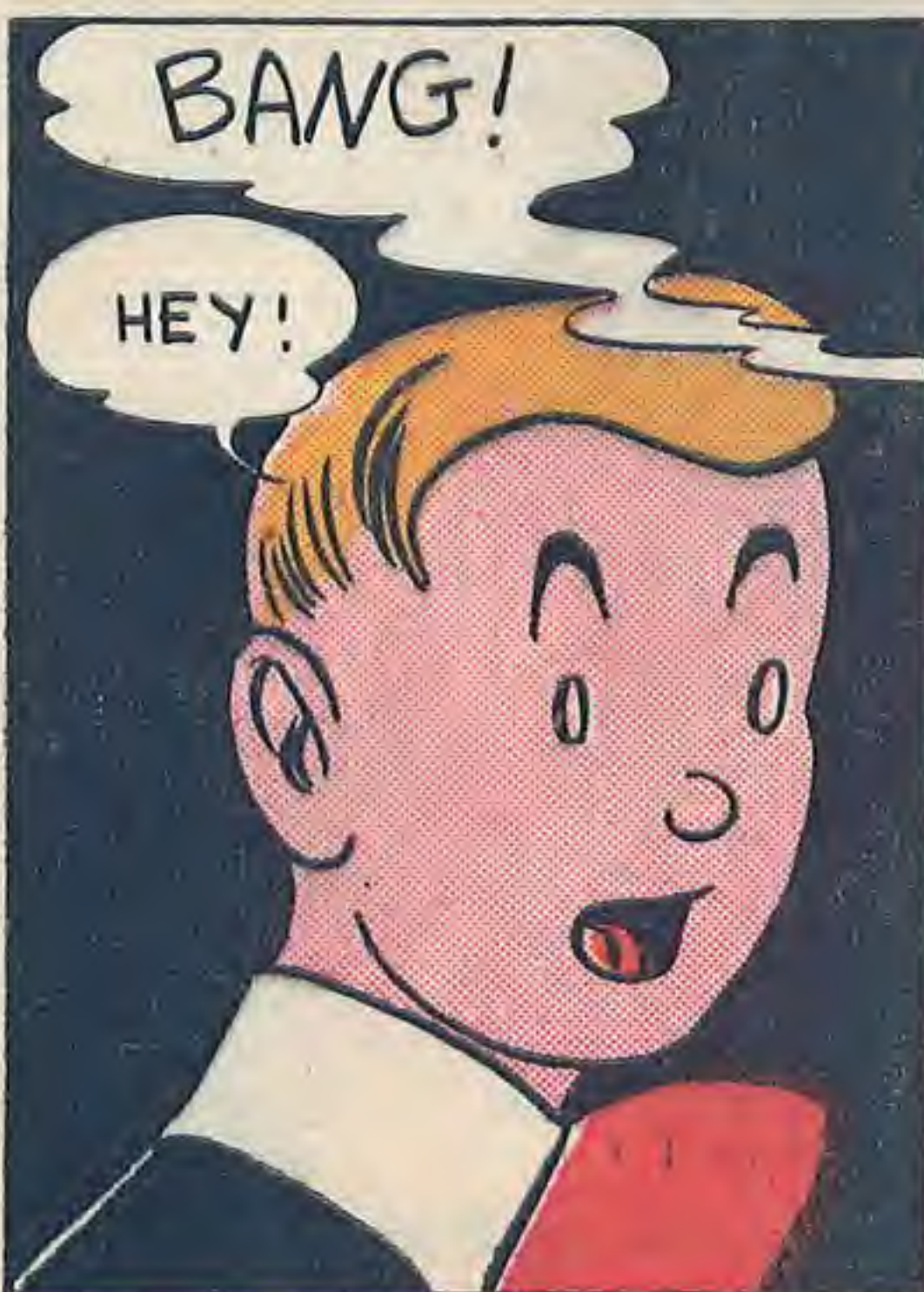
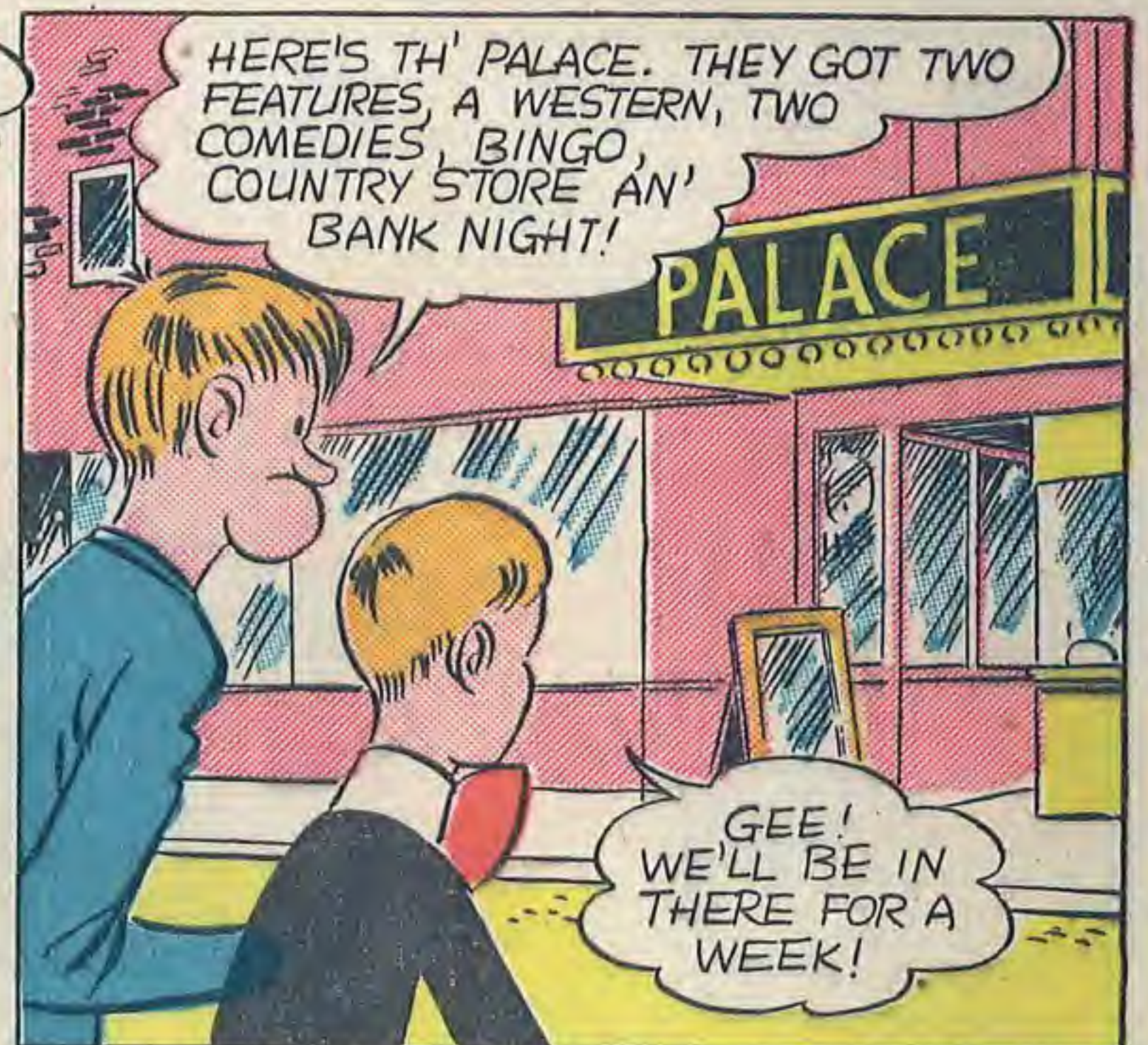
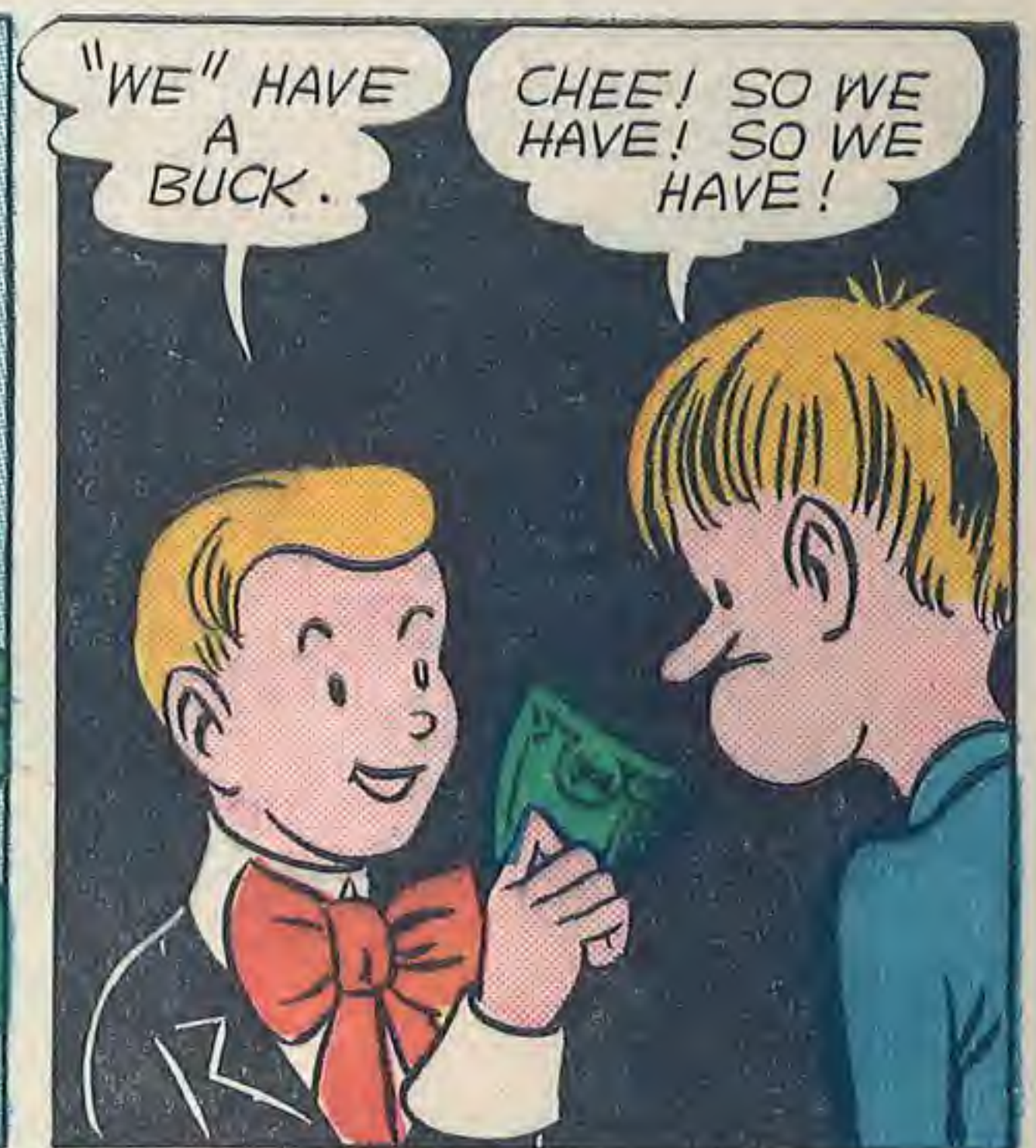
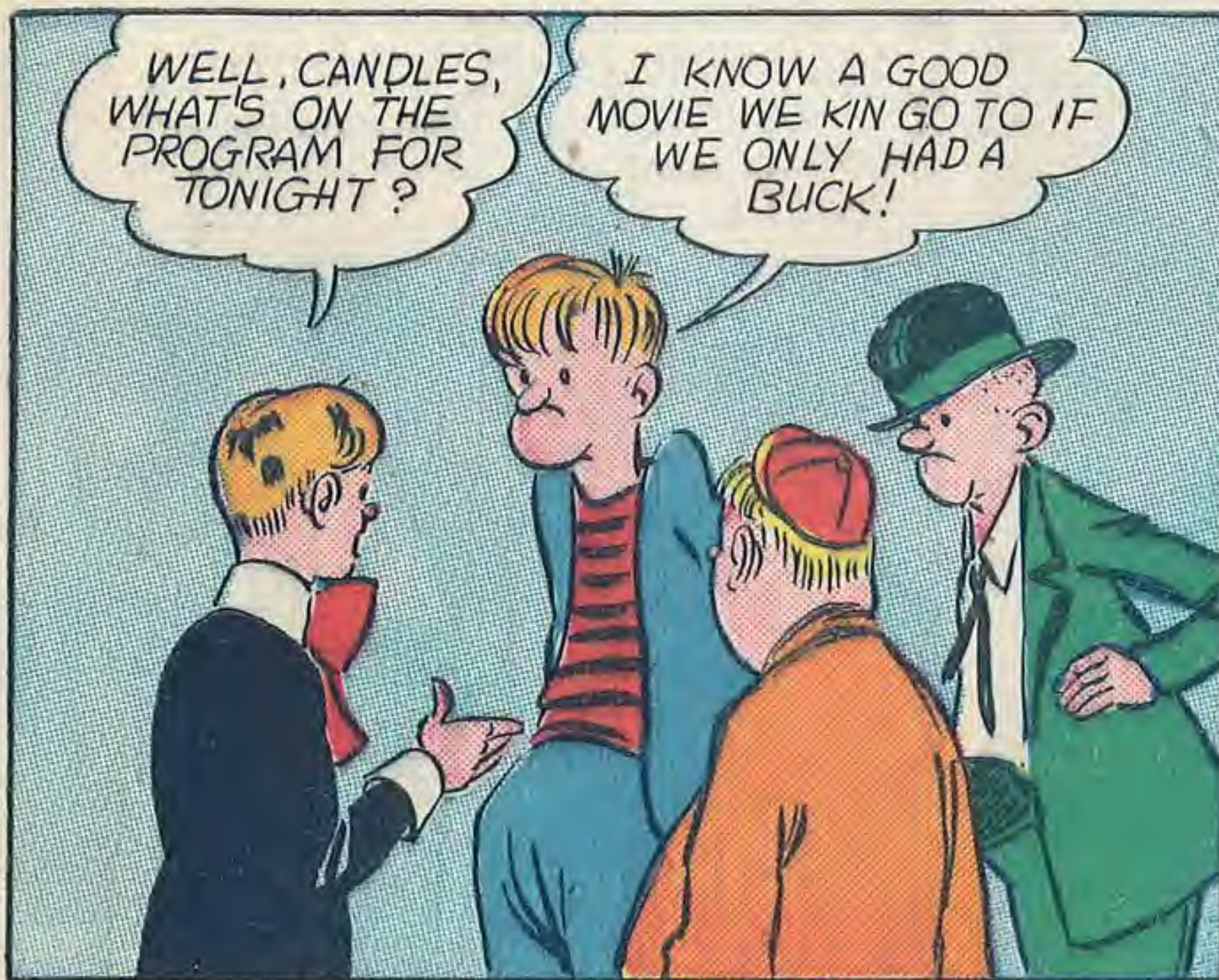




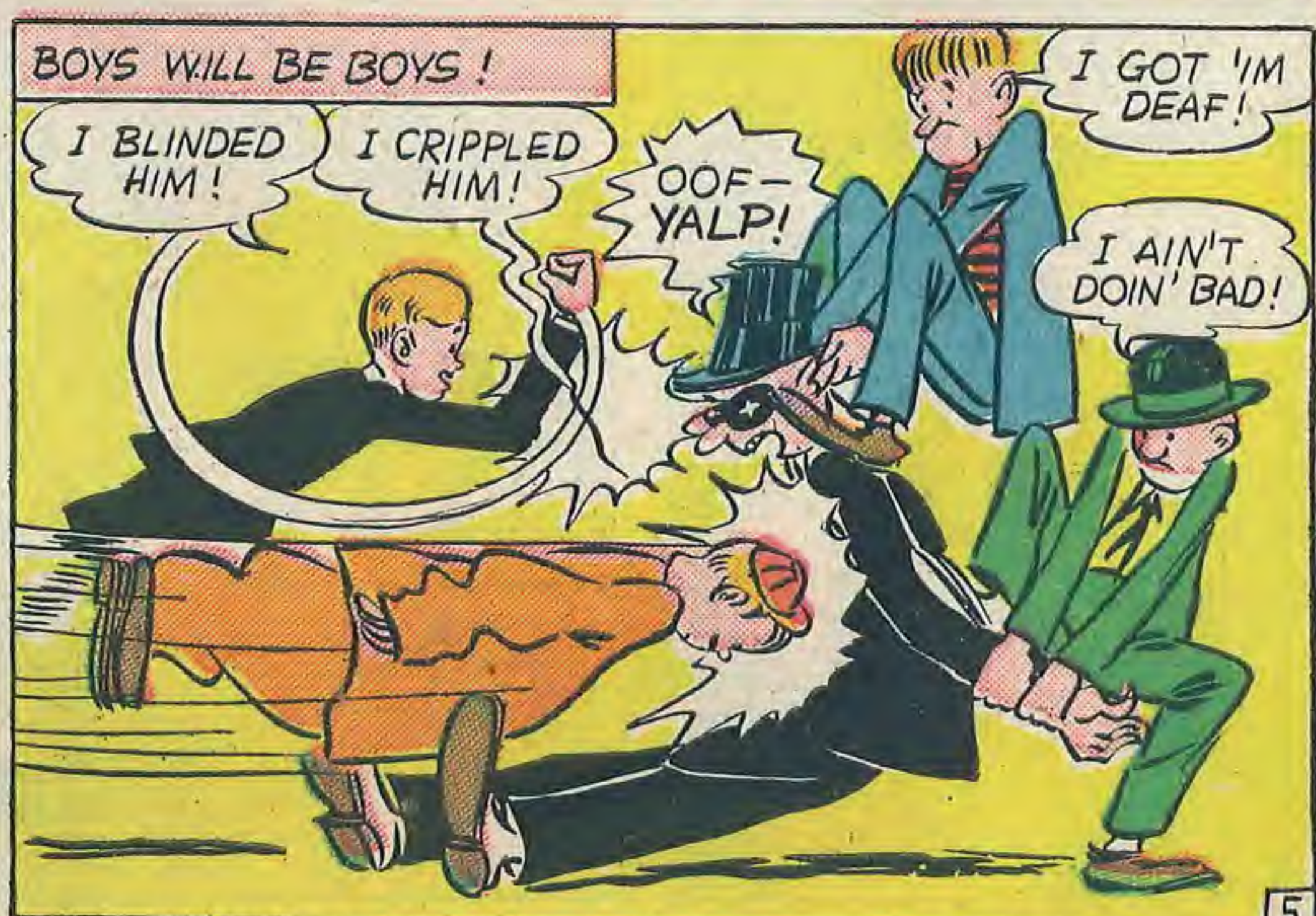
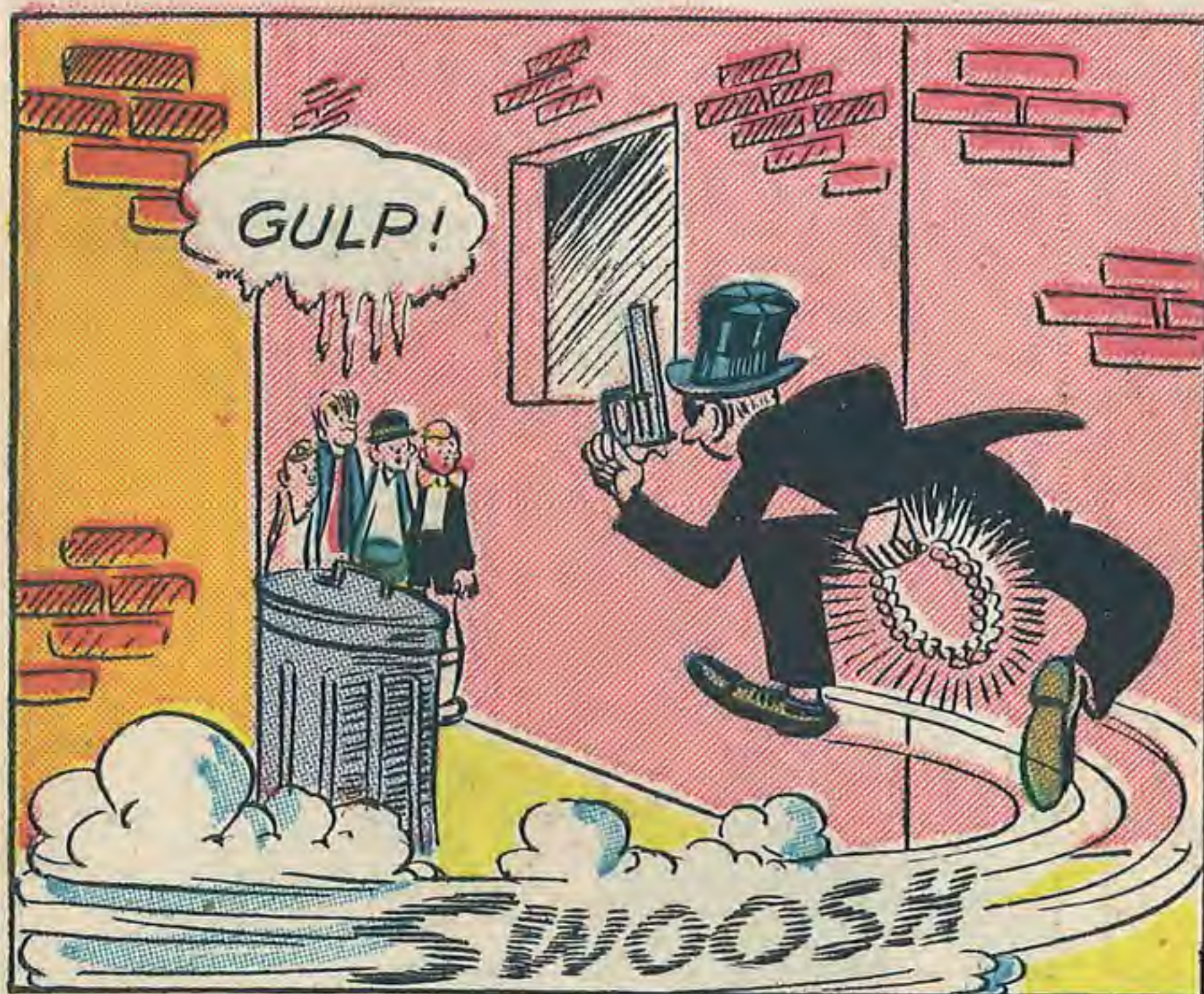
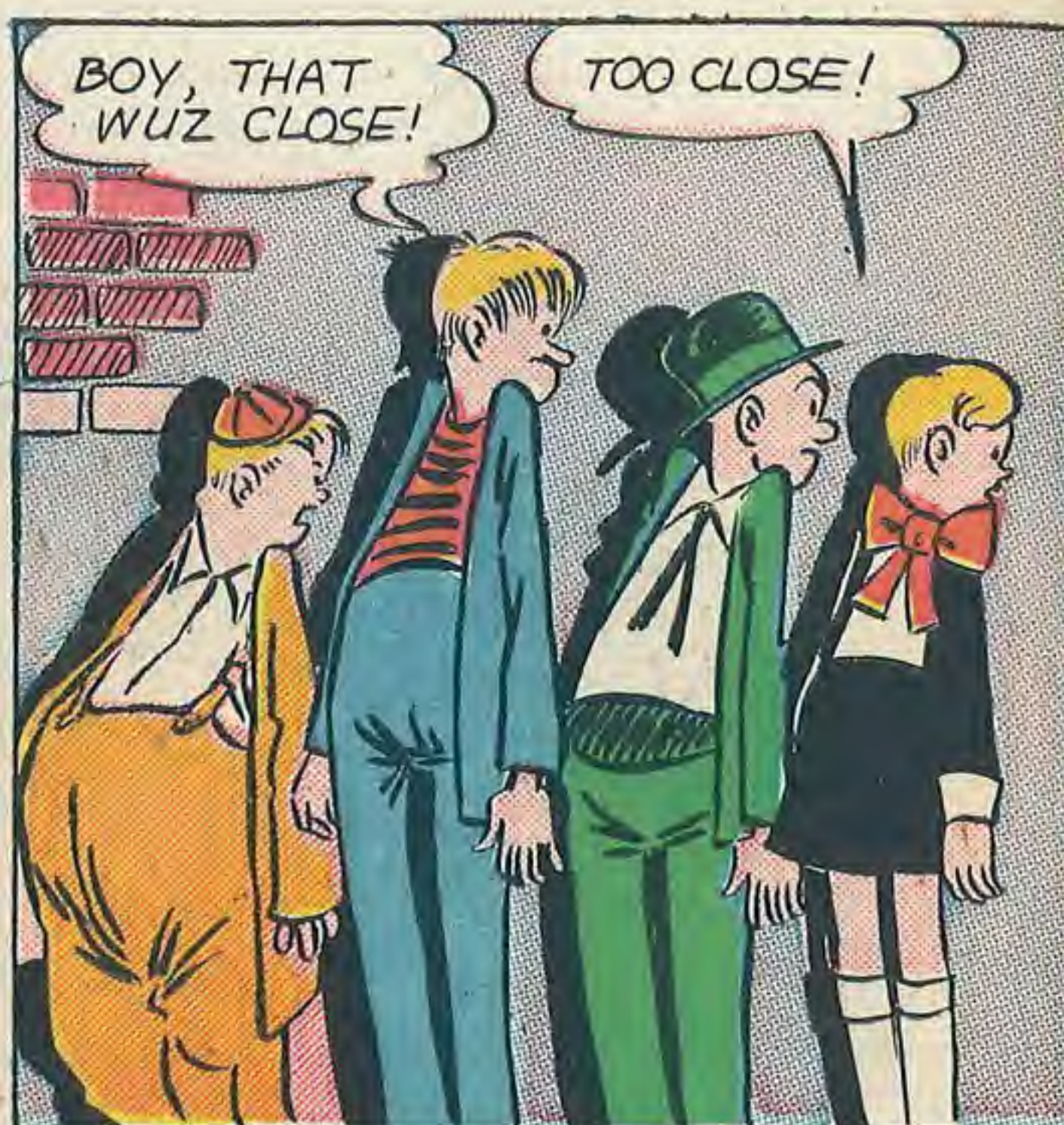
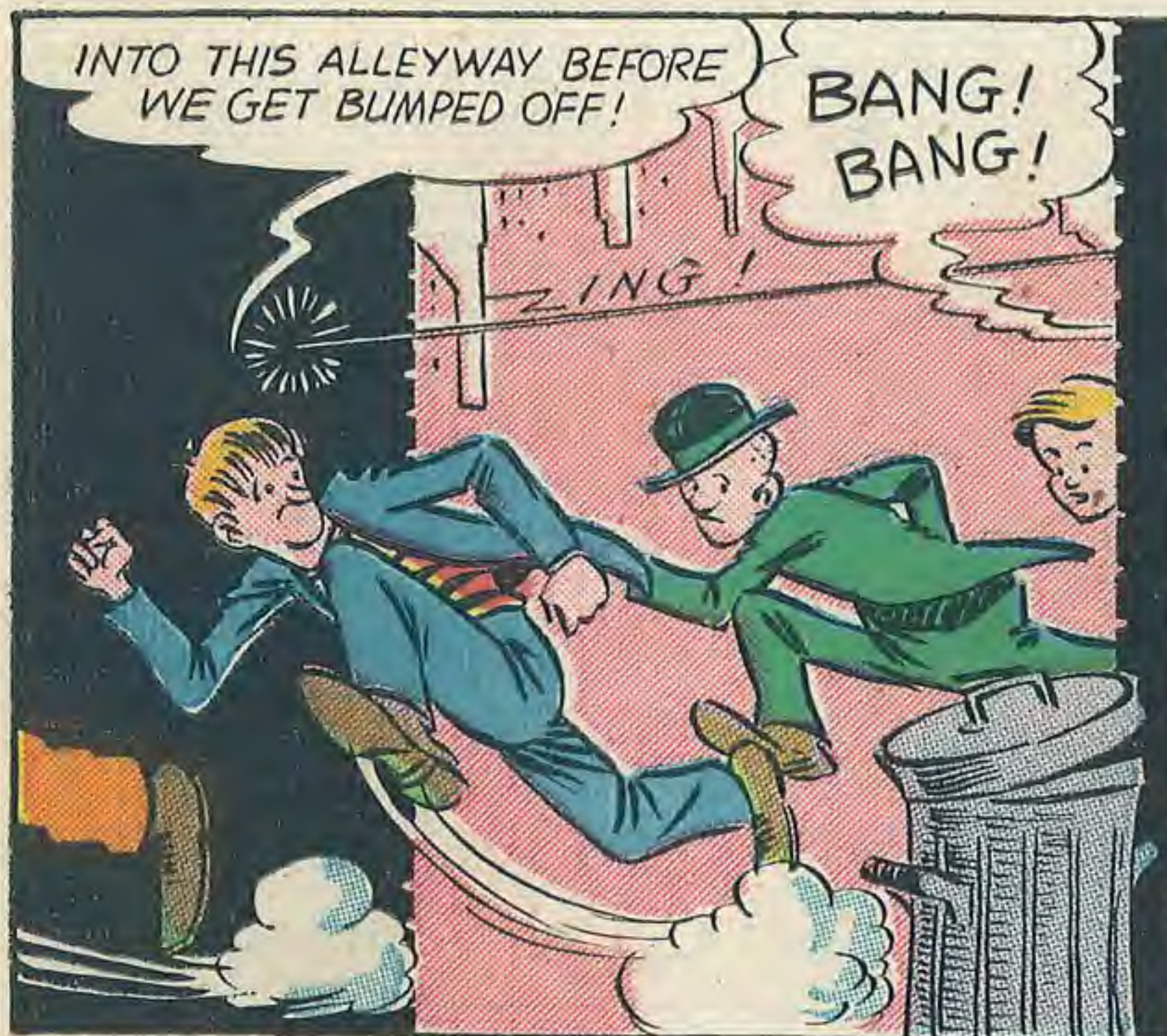




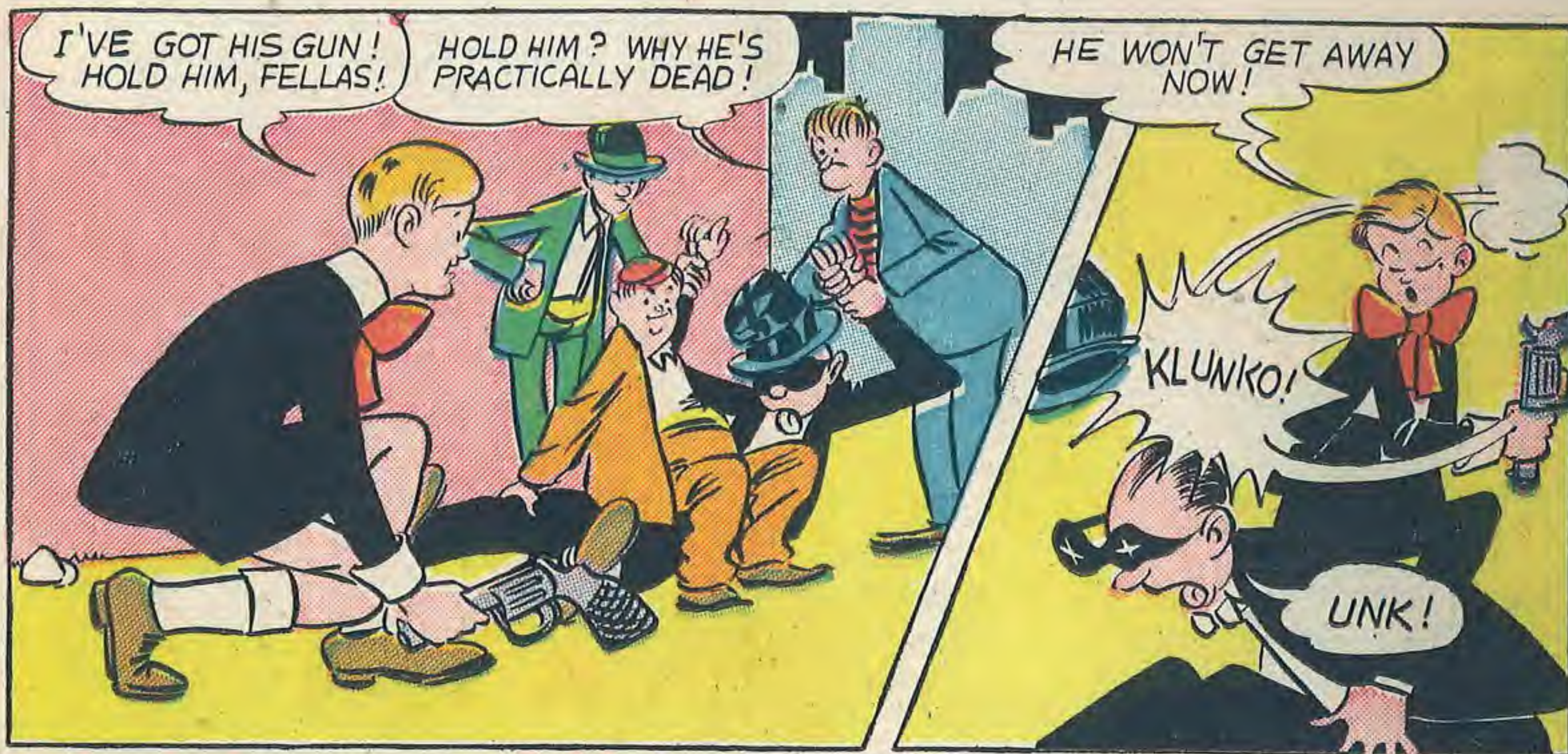




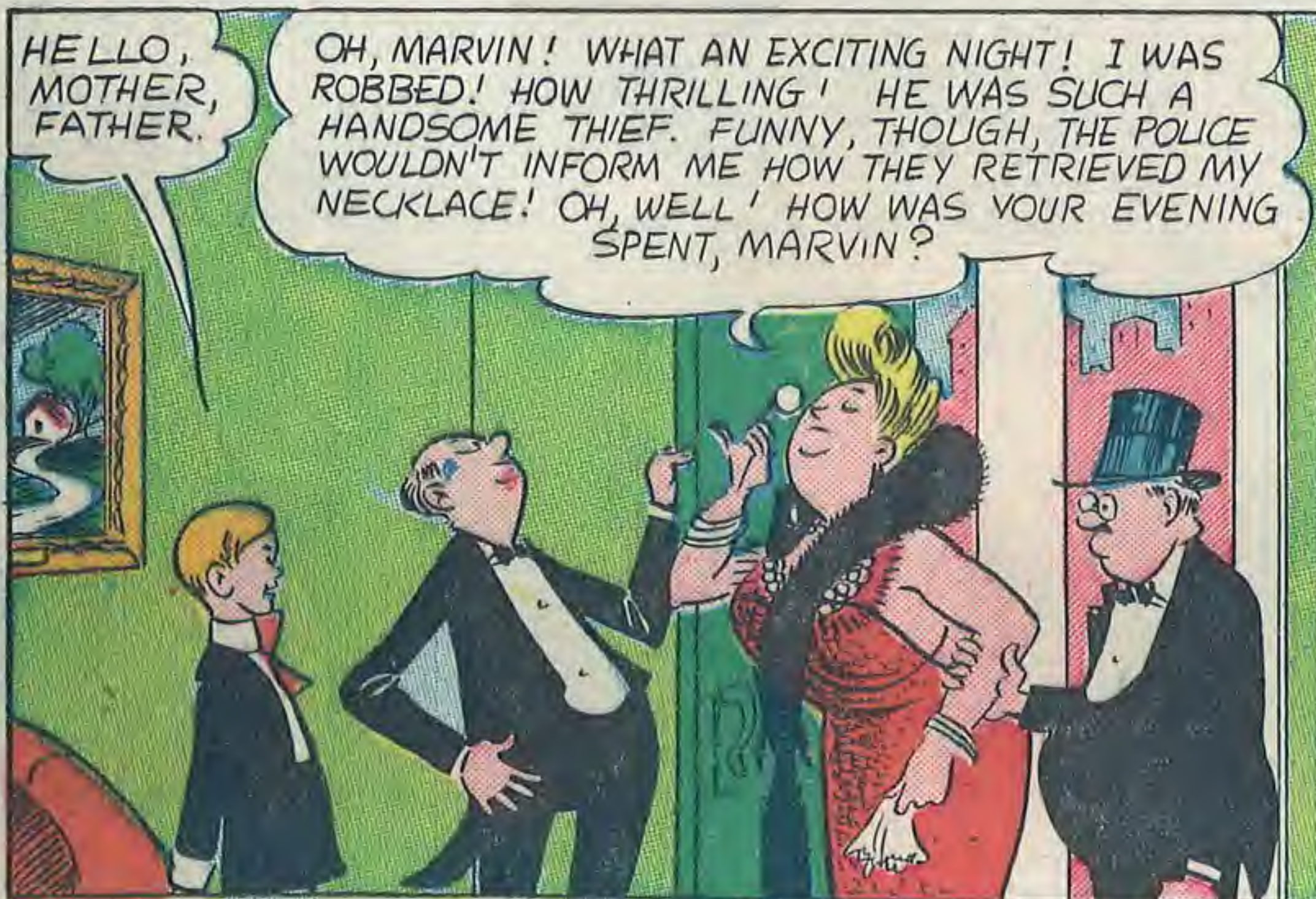
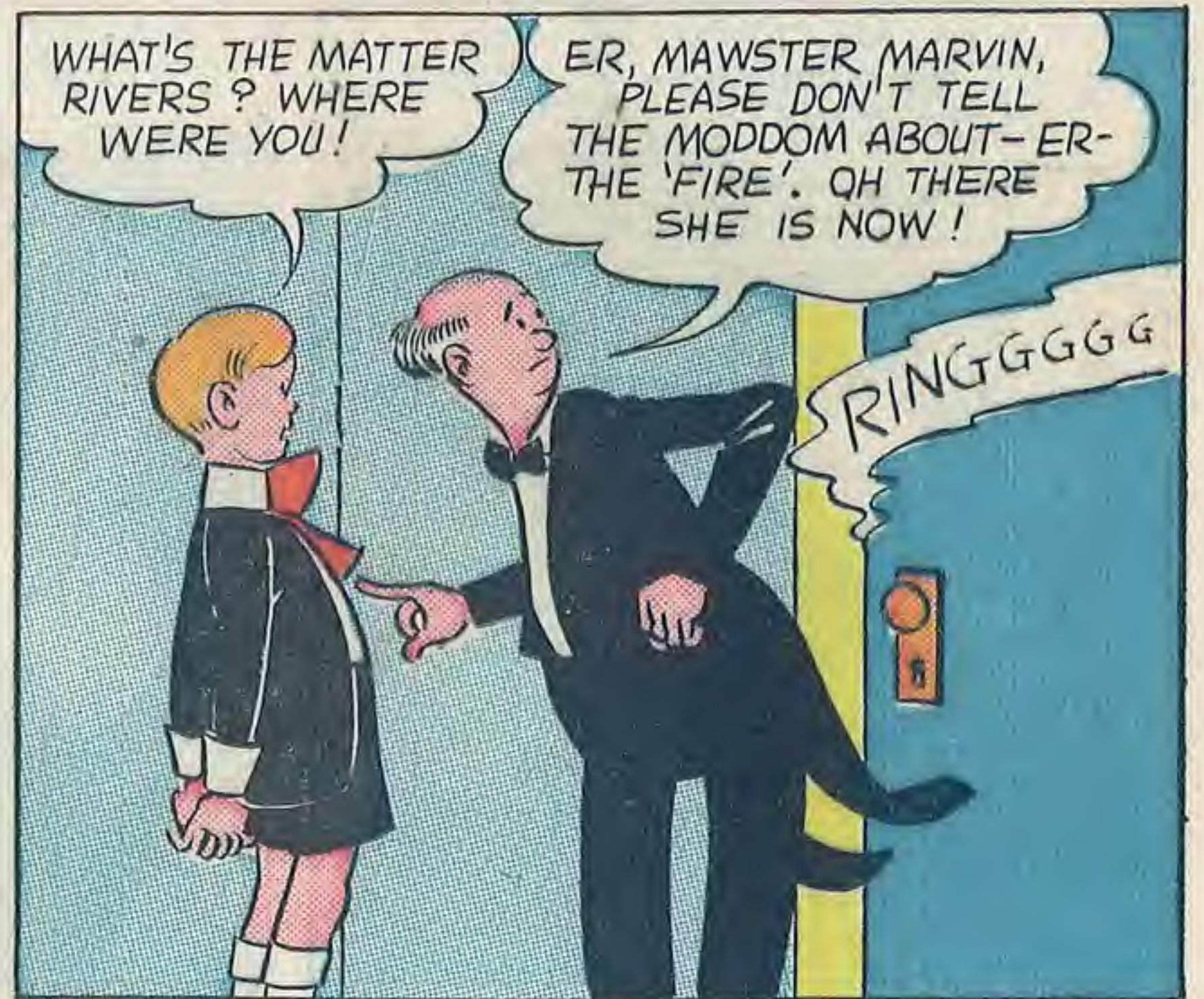
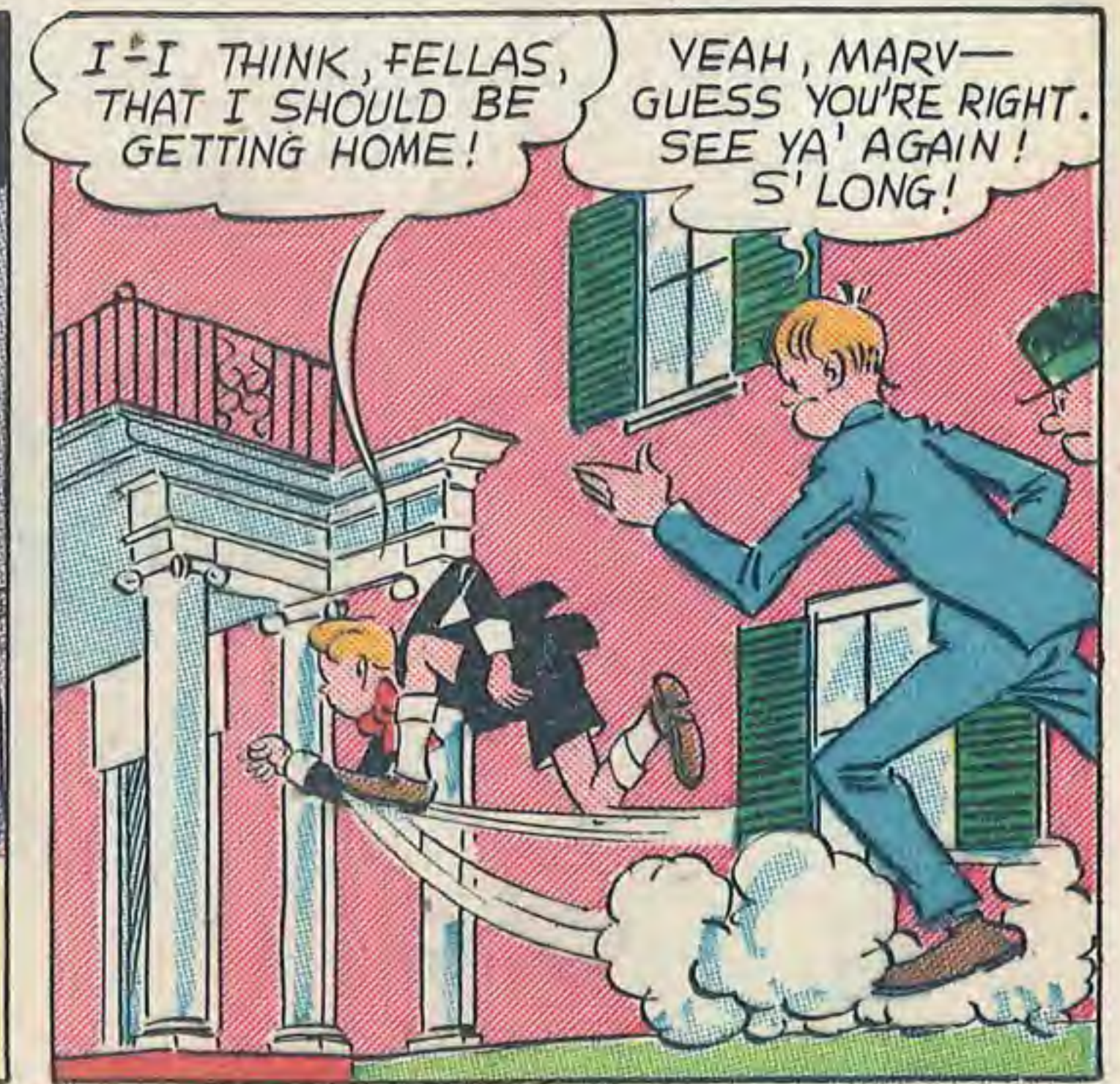
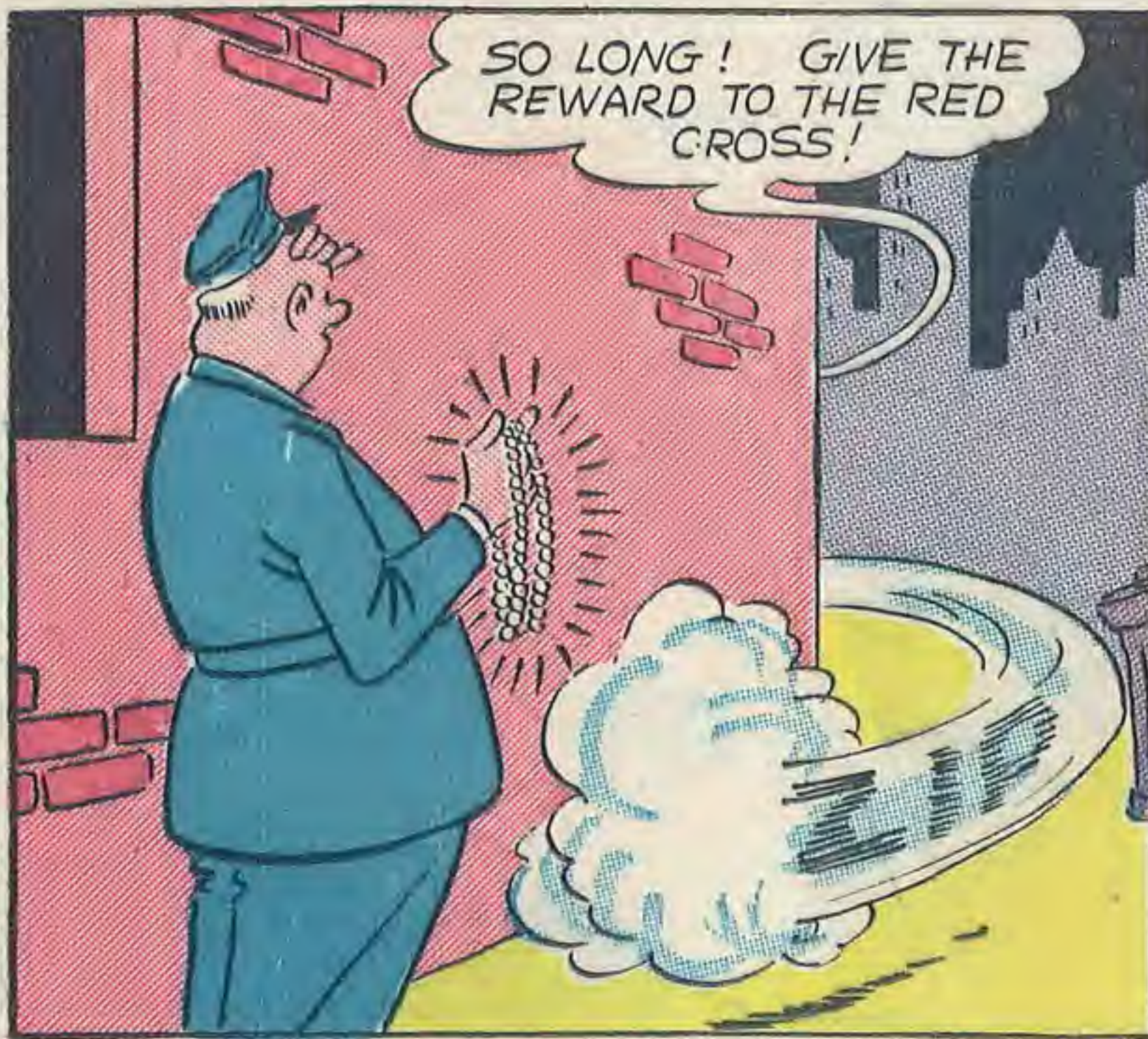














# GRAVES

## GHOST HUNTER

By B. CHRYSLER



LATE ONE WINTERS NIGHT, A PERSISTANT BELL RINGING BRINGS GRAVES TO THE DOOR . . .

A THREAT SIGNED WITH A CAT'S PAW.. I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SOME FRIEND PLAYING A JOKE.. GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP.

WHAT EVER YOU SHAY, GRAVES. THANKS!



NICE LI'L KITTY. YOU DIDN'T SEND ME THAT NASTY THREAT.. DID YOU...



SUDDENLY THE AIR CHILLS.. AND..

HUH! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!







DON'T... STOP!  
HELP! HELP!



THE NEXT MORNING...

HE'S DEAD ALL  
RIGHT! FIENDISHLY  
CLAWED WITH  
SOMETHING  
POISONOUS.  
SEE HOW THE  
MARKS TURNED  
BLUE, MR. GRAVES?

I'LL NEVER  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF! HE  
ASKED FOR  
HELP, BUT I  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS A  
HOAX!



THE NAME IN HIS  
WALLET SHOWS HE'S  
CHARLES WRIGHT,  
THE BANKER! WE'D  
BETTER PAY A  
VISIT TO HIS HOME!



I AM CLAUDE WRIGHT,  
CHARLES' BROTHER...  
THIS IS MY FIANCEE,  
MISS GRANT.

HOWDY.



IT IS NOT THE FIRST  
VIOLENT DEATH IN OUR  
FAMILY, MR. GRAVES...WAIT  
'TIL YOU READ THE FAMILY  
HISTORY. WHILE IN INDIA  
MY FATHER WAS KILLED  
IN THE SAME MANNER!  
IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE  
HAD BEEN CLAWED TO  
DEATH BY SOME  
JUNGLE BEAST!

REALLY.

I HAVE A  
FEELING  
I'M TO BE  
THE NEXT  
VICTIM!

ONLY  
CATS  
AND  
WOMEN  
SCRATCH...



CATS! AND THAT  
CAT IN THE YARD...  
IT WALKS IN THE  
FRESH SNOW YET  
LEAVES NO  
TRACKS!



IT'S RUNNING AWAY!  
NOW WHAT WOULD  
A STRAY CAT BE  
DOING AROUND  
HERE?

WHAT'S THIS?  
LOOKS LIKE  
A NOTE!

I JUST GOT A REPORT FROM THE  
MEDICAL EXAMINER, MR. GRAVES.  
THAT POISON IN HIS BODY HASN'T  
BEEN IN USE FOR CENTURIES.  
THERE'S SOME LEGEND ABOUT  
WITCHES BREWING IT WAY  
BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES!

THAT'S INTERESTING!  
I'M GOING INSIDE, BUT  
I SUGGEST YOU SEARCH  
THE GROUNDS  
THOROUGHLY...

No one in  
your family  
can escape  
punishment.  
The curse shall  
be fulfilled!

I'LL TELL HIM ABOUT  
THE NOTE AFTER I  
TAKE A LOOK AT THE  
FAMILY HISTORY. I'VE  
A HUNCH I MIGHT FIND  
SOMETHING IMPORTANT  
HERE...

THIS CURSE ON OUR  
FAMILY BEGAN IN 1745  
WHEN HAROLD WRIGHT,  
A JUDGE IN NORTH  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS,  
PASSED SENTENCE ON  
AGNES HARRINGTON  
TO BE BURNED AT THE  
STAKE FOR PRACTICING  
WITCHCRAFT. SHE  
PROCLAIMED A CURSE  
ON HIS FAMILY UNTO  
THE LAST UNTO  
GENERATION...



SUDDENLY A MYSTERIOUS LIGHT FILLS THE ROOM.. AND...

INQUISITIVE, AREN'T YOU?! LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING ELSE!

YOU.. AGNES HARRINGTON!

WAIT.. I'LL FOLLOW YOU, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?!

TO THE SUN PORCH? WHAT COULD BE THERE?

GREAT SCOTT! MISS GRANT.. DEAD!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BUT HOW.. HOW? WE WERE ALL IN THE HOUSE...

I'M NEXT.. I KNOW IT! HELP ME! HELP ME!

HOW CAN I HELP HIM?

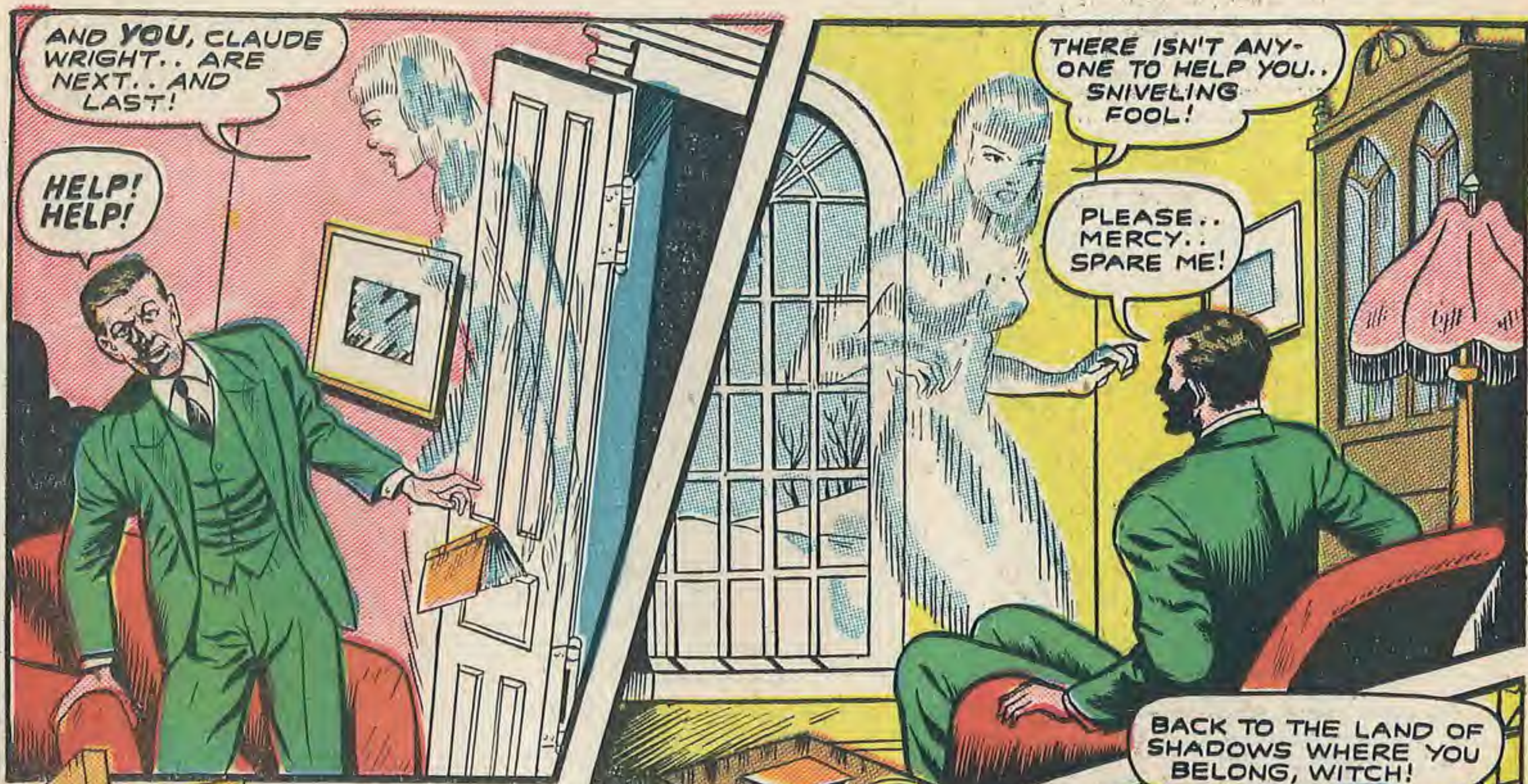
CLAUDE IS THE LAST OF THE FAMILY. WHEN HE DIES, MY CURSE IS FULFILLED.. BUT I MUST REMOVE GRAVES AS I DID THE GIRL!



I'M GOING TO TOWN. CONTINUE TO SEARCH THE GROUNDS FOR A TRACE OF THAT CAT. ACTUALLY IT'S A WITCH THAT WAS BURNED TO DEATH AT THE STAKE IN 1745!







AND YOU, CLAUDE WRIGHT... ARE NEXT... AND LAST!

HELP! HELP!

THERE ISN'T ANY-ONE TO HELP YOU.. SNIVELING FOOL!

PLEASE.. MERCY.. SPARE ME!

BACK TO THE LAND OF SHADOWS WHERE YOU BELONG, WITCH!



IT'S LUCKY I FOUND MY DISINTEGRATOR. THAT WILL FINISH HER! I'M NOT DEAD AS SHE HOPED!



TAKE THAT RAY OFF ME, YOU DEVIL!

IN A SWIRL OF MIST, THE SPECTRE FADES.. AND GRAVES RUSHES TO THE AID OF HER WOULD BE VICTIM..



HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, MR. GRAVES?

BOSH! HOLD STEADY, NOW!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, MEN?

WHEN I RETURNED TO TOWN, IT WAS FOR AN ANTIDOTE TO THAT POISON. THAT'S WHAT I JUST GAVE CLAUDE. SHE WAS OUT TO GET ME, TOO, SO I SET A TRAP FOR HER.. IT WAS A TIGHT SPOT THOUGH, UNTIL I FOUND MY DISINTEGRATOR! SHE'LL NEVER RETURN.. I GUARANTEE THAT!

THANK HEAVENS! HE'S BROKEN THE FAMILY CURSE!

WELL, I'LL BE!

GRAVES THE GHOST HUNTER, SOLVES ANOTHER WEIRD CRIME OF THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **CROWN** Comics!



# SECRET AGENT R S-II



A BRITISH FREIGHTER WITH SUPPLIES FOR THE ARMY OF THE NILE IS PLODDING ALONG THROUGH THE RED SEA NEAR THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE SUEZ CANAL.

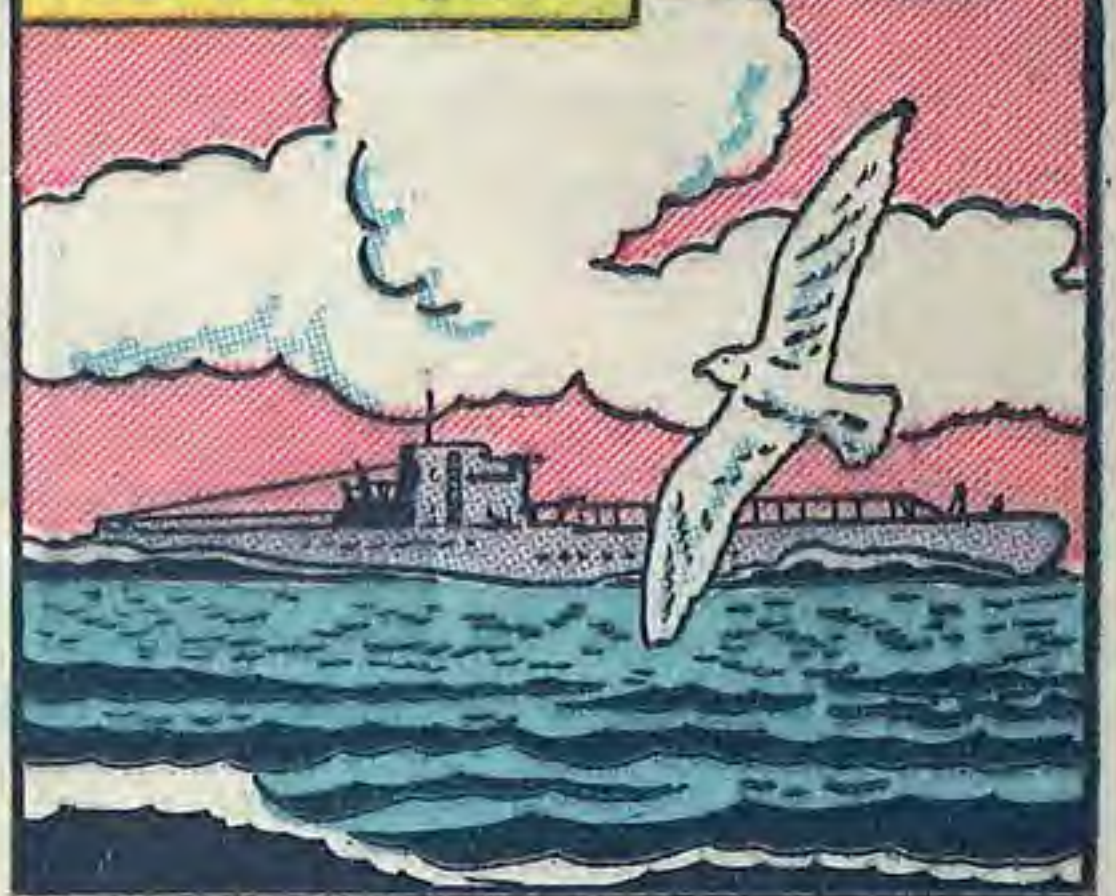
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, THE TALES OF THIS GRIM WAR, AND THE BRAVE DEEDS OF ALLIED MEN IN IT, WILL THRILL A MILLION HEARTS. YET UNTO ETERNITY THE BLACK CURSE OF NAZISM CAN NEVER WASH AWAY THE STENCH AND TAINT LEFT FROM THEIR STRUGGLE FOR POWER THAT SHOOK THE WORLD, SUCH AS IN THIS ADVENTURE TAKEN FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL FILES OF SECRET AGENT, R S-II!

SUDDENLY...

NAZI  
SUBMARINE  
TO STARBOARD!



THE LONG SLIM HULL OF A U-BOAT EMERGES FROM THE CALM SEA.



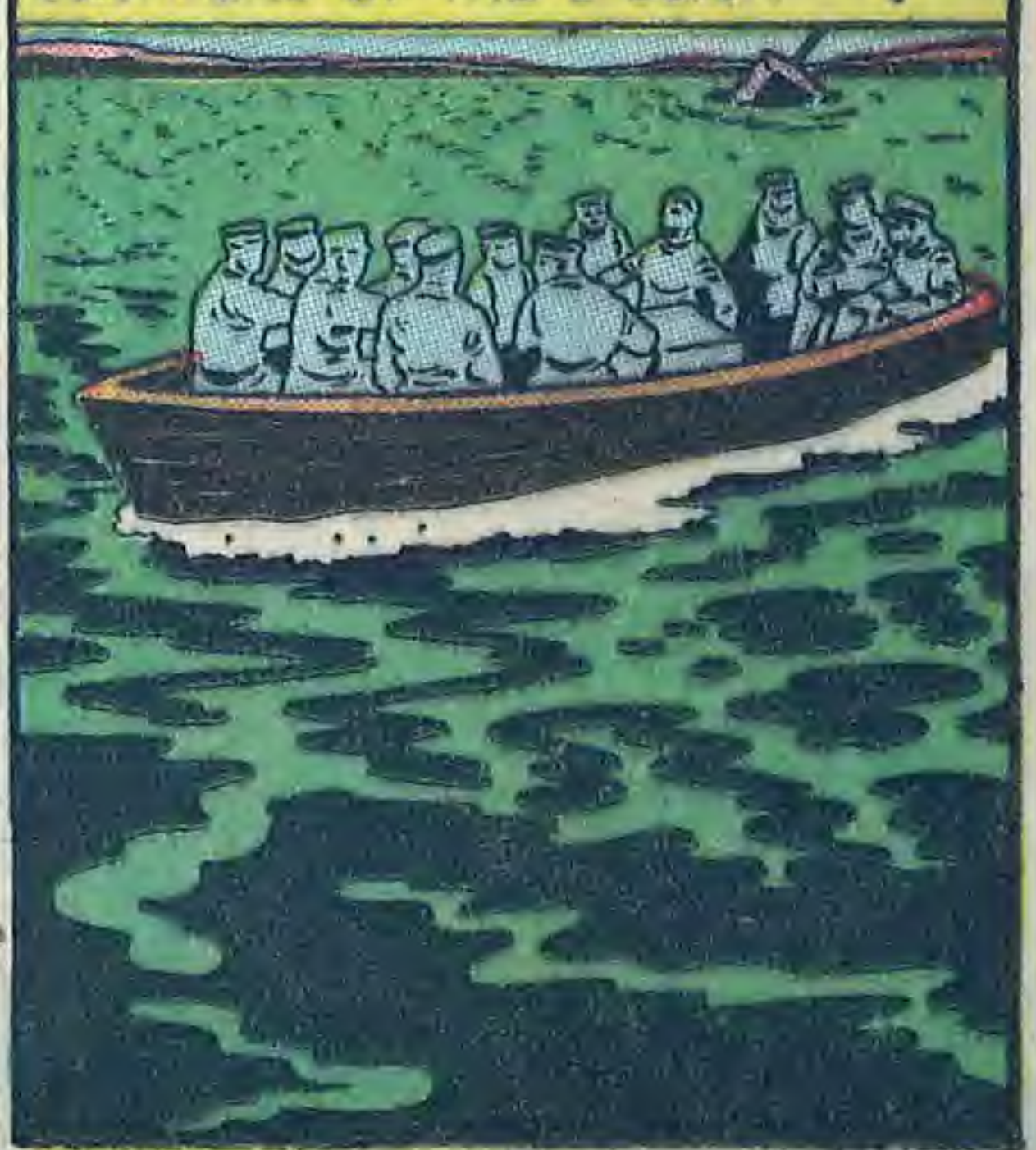
ALERT AND READY, THE GUN CREW OF THE FREIGHTER GOES SWIFTLY INTO ACTION.



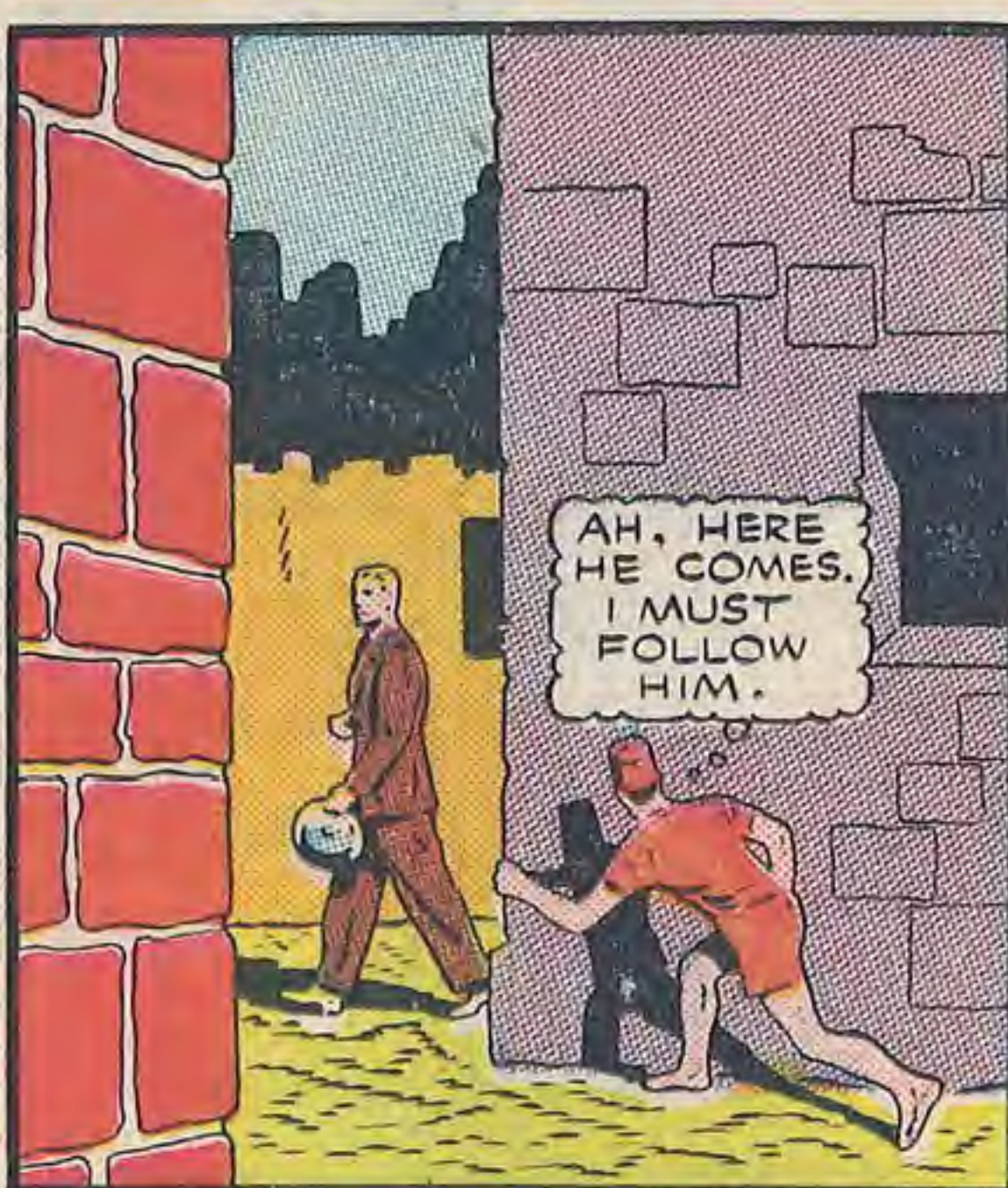
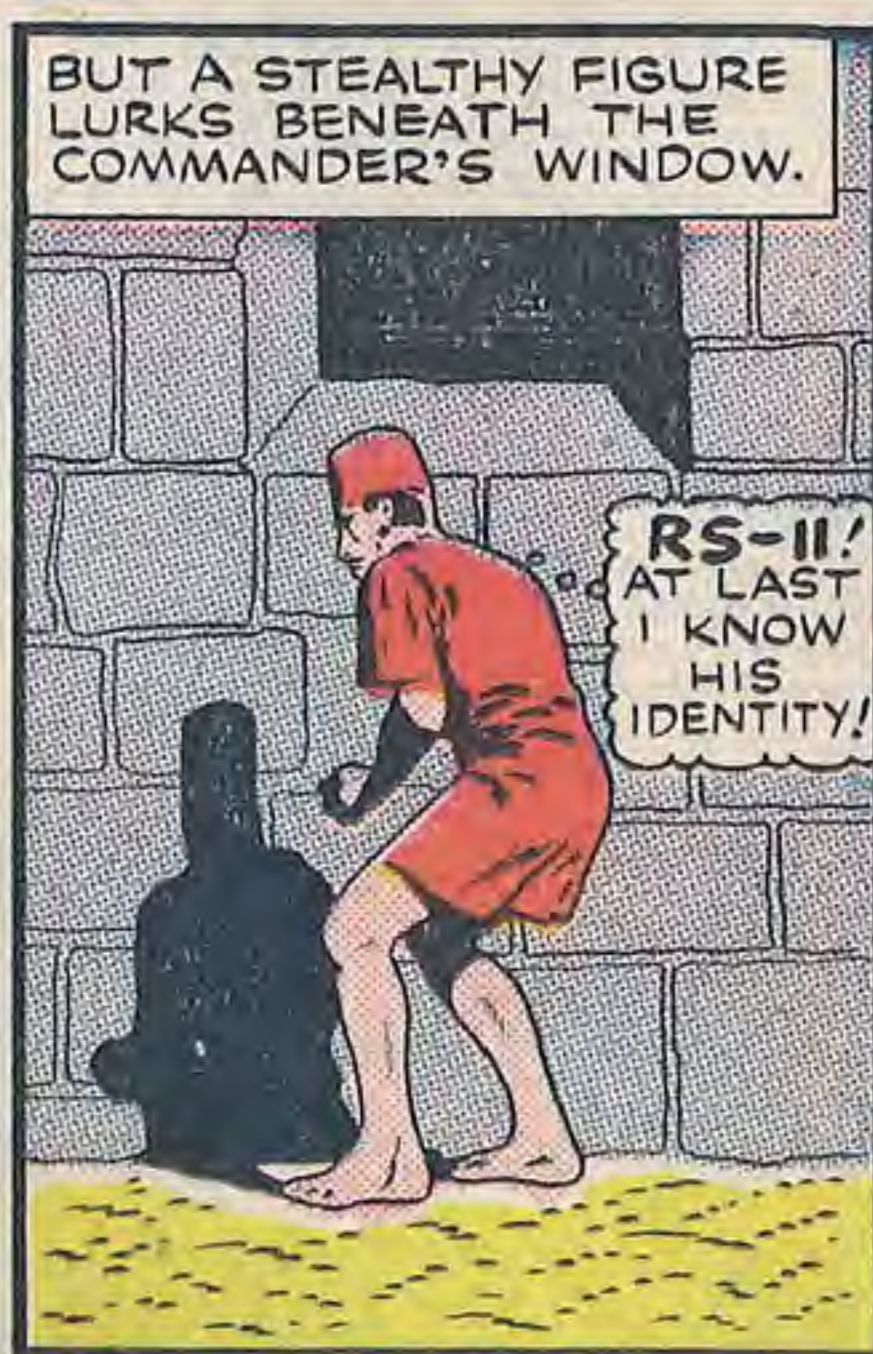
A SHELL BURSTS NEAR ENOUGH TO THE NAZI CRAFT TO CRUSH ITS FRAIL DELICATE MECHANISMS.



BUT A STRANGE THING HAPPENS. FROM THE ARABIAN SHORE COMES A POWERED LIFEBOAT TO PICK UP SURVIVORS OF THE U-BOAT.









SEVERAL DAYS LATER **RS-II**, DISGUISED AS AN ARAB, HAS MADE HIS WAY DOWN THE HEJAZ COAST IN SEARCH OF THE NAZI SUBMARINE CREW.



SUDDENLY...

UH-OH! WHAT'S THAT AHEAD?



**RS-II**'S KEEN EYES MAKE OUT A BAND OF ARABS IN THE DISTANCE. SEVERAL BREN GUN CARRIERS, EVIDENTLY CAPTURED, REVEAL THEM AS ENEMIES OF THE BRITISH.



**RS-II** APPROACHES SLOWLY TO AVOID SUSPICION. WHEN CLOSE, HE SUDDENLY CHARGES.



HALT!

BUT HIS FAITHFUL CAMEL IS SHOT FROM BENEATH HIM.

THAT BREN GUN CARRIER IS MY ONLY CHANCE.



**MADE IT!**



WITH THE ARABS BUT A TANK-LENGTH BEHIND, **RS-II** MAKES A BOLD DASH FOR FREEDOM.



UNABLE TO MAN THE GUNS AND DRIVE AT THE SAME TIME, **RS-II** HURLS BOTTLES OF GASOLINE AT HIS PURSUERS.



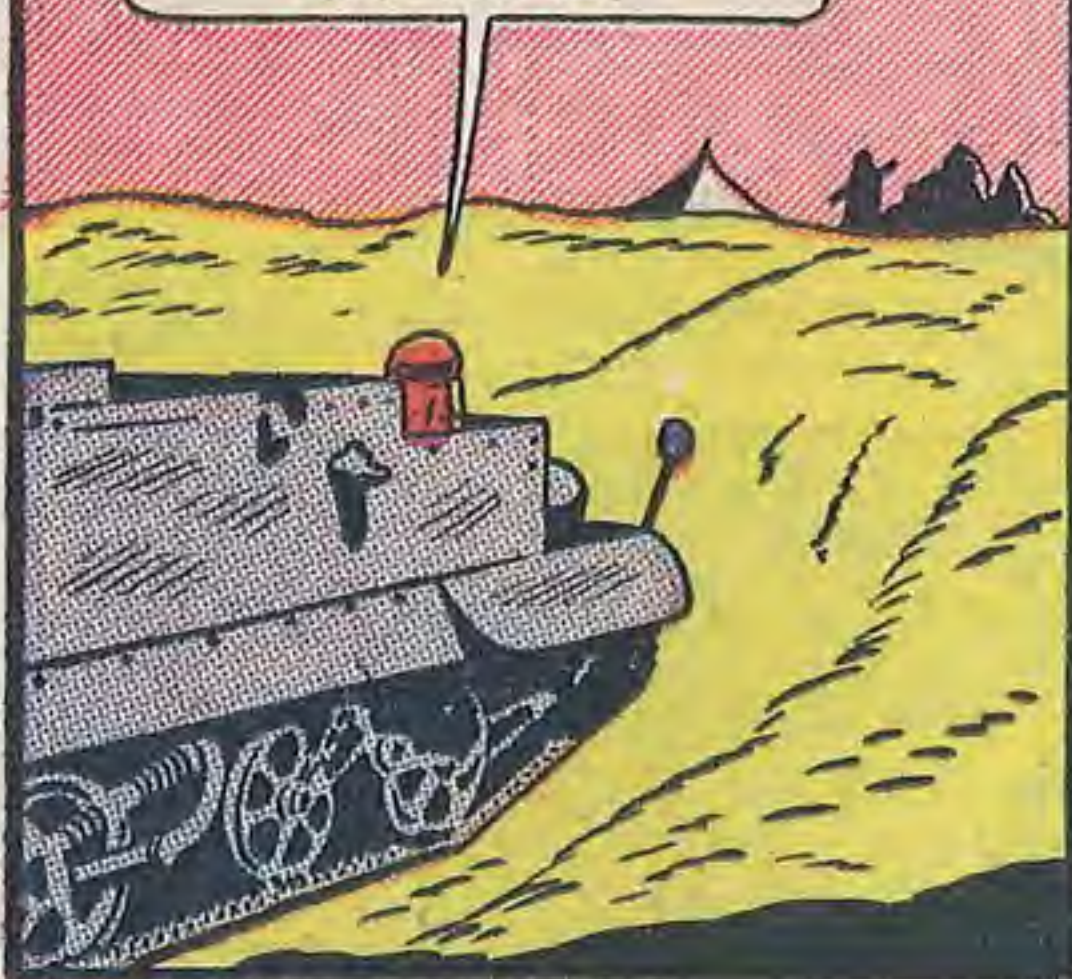
SO LONG, LADS, I'LL SEND YOU A POST CARD WHEN I GET BACK TO PORT SAID!





LATER.

LOOKS LIKE A BRITISH PATROL UP AHEAD... I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO SUBMIT TO CAPTURE!



UNTIL YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH A BRITISH TANK, I MUST TIE YOU UP UNTIL WE RETURN TO OUR BASE!



THAT'S A GOOD ONE ON ME. I ESCAPE FROM THE ARABS ONLY TO BE CAPTURED BY MY OWN MEN. ... HELLO, IS THAT A MOTORCYCLE OVER THERE? ... M-M-M.



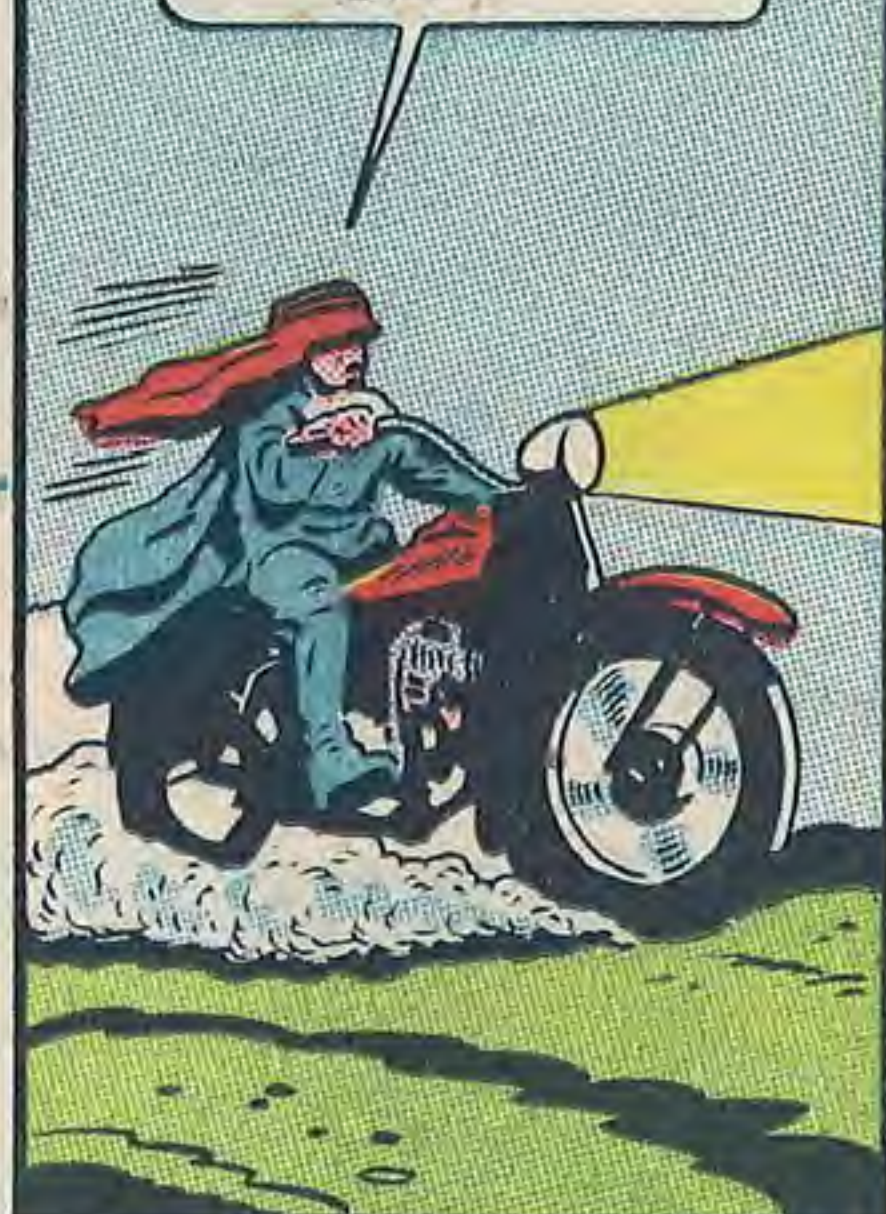
TO RS-II'S POWERFUL WRISTS THE ROPE WITH WHICH HE IS BOUND IS LIKE A THIN PIECE OF STRING.



I'LL BE IN A PICKLE IF THAT BIKE DOESN'T START.



PHEW! MADE IT! ... NOW TO CONTINUE DOWN THE COAST. THAT U-BOAT CREW CAN'T BE FAR OFF.



LATER THAT NIGHT RS-II SUDDENLY COMES UPON A GROUP OF FIGURES IN THE DARKNESS. HIS HEADLIGHT REVEALS THEIR UNIFORMS — NAZI SEAMEN! THEY ARE TOO SURPRISED BY THE FIGURE FLASHING PAST THEM FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS TO ACT.



WHAT LUCK! FOUND THEM! NOW TO REPORT!



ACH! VE HAF BEEN SEEN! VE MUST CARRY OUDT OUR PLANS BEFORE DER ENEMY COMES. ARE DER TWO DHOWS VE CAPTURED READY? ...

JA!





MEANWHILE **RS-II** HAS MADE HIS WAY TO MUWEIA ON THE RED SEA. THERE HE FINDS AN OLD FRIEND, BEN HASSIM, WHO OFFERS TO SAIL HIM ACROSS TO EGYPT IN HIS FAST DHOW.



OFFSHORE, THEY COME UPON THE TWO DHOWS FILLED WITH NAZI SEAMEN.



WITHOUT WARNING, THE NAZIS OPEN FIRE.



IN THE FACE OF WITHERING MACHINE GUN FIRE, **RS-II** AND BEN HASSIM RAM THEIR STURDY CRAFT INTO ONE OF THE NAZI DHOWS.



BEN HASSIM TOSSES A FLAMING TORCH AT THE OTHER.



WHICH GOES UP IN SMOKE.



A SMALL FLEET OF DHOWS HURRIES OUT FROM SHORE FOR SURVIVORS.



THE NEXT DAY, BACK AT THE COMMANDER'S OFFICE IN PORT SAID.

I PICKED UP THIS SUSPICIOUS LOOKING CHARACTER ON THE WATERFRONT, SIR!

VERY GOOD. LEAVE HIM ALONE WITH ME!



HA, HA! MY OWN MAN WAS FOOLED BY YOUR DISGUISE, **RS-II**. I HAVE A FULL REPORT ON THAT SUB CREW. GOOD WORK, OLD MAN!

THANK YOU, SIR.



**BUY MORE WAR BONDS!**



# DIAMONDS OF DESTINY

By  
CHARLES DEAN

**I**N the shimmering brilliance of all historical jewels lies a soaring tale of romance and adventure. Changed were the fates of nations and men that sought to own them. War, plunder and murder beat a path to their presence.

One of these famous gems was the Regent diamond, a glistening mountain of color, sparkle and beauty.

It was such a jewel, four hundred and twenty-six carats of splendor, that set Sir Thomas Pitt, British governor of Fort St. George in Madras on the greatest adventure of his life.

Fiction and fact are so closely associated in the background of gems that it is difficult to prove or disprove either, but the Regent diamond is said to have been found in the year 1701, at the Partial mines on the Kistna river.

An Indian slave found the stone that to him

meant the joyful promise of freedom. Cutting a gash in his leg, he secreted it and made his way to the sea coast. There he offered it to the skipper of an English ship. The exchange he asked for was safe passage to free land and a small share of the proceeds. However, the temptation of the diamond overcame the skipper and during the passage to Bombay the slave met with sudden disaster. Then the stone again changed hands, for it was bought for the sum of five thousand dollars by an Indian merchant. It is also rumored that later the English sea-captain destroyed himself in a fit of drunken remorse.

The sly diamond merchant, named Jauerchand, offered the jewel to Pitt, asking two hundred pagodas (or \$360,000) for it, which Pitt was unable to pay. Yet, awed by the size of the stone, his fingers itched to own it. He sent

for the merchant time and time again until the price was brought down to eighty-four thousand dollars. Thus Pitt became possessor of what he believed to be the largest diamond in the world.

Even though the investment represented Pitt's entire fortune, war in Europe made it impossible for any covetous monarch to produce money enough to repurchase the jewel from him. Being unable to leave India himself, he sent his son, Robert, to his agent in London with the gem.

As Robert made the tedious journey, his father worried constantly, for thieves or murderers could easily remove both his son and fortune. There was also the slow arrival of mail to cause him grief for many a month.

However, Robert did arrive safely in London and all England hummed with the news of the fabulous



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jewel. Pitt hoped to sell it for over half a million dollars but tales of slander sprang up as to how he came to possess such a wondrous stone.

These tales that breezed through the court circles almost ruined Pitt's reputation, but the unhappy governor was mainly worried over his investment.

Finally the Duke of Orleans, Regent of France during the minority of Louis XV, agreed to purchase the stone for one hundred thirty five thousand pounds (approximately \$637,000). This brought Sir Thomas Pitt home to England where he personally made the trip to Calais. Heavily disguised, he dared not sleep two nights in the same bed, so great was his fear of being attacked for his possession.

Despite the promise of the Duke, Pitt received, in cash, only forty thousand pounds, and was given three boxes of crown jewels as a guarantee for the remainder, but this balance was never paid.

The exacting process of cutting and polishing took two tireless years and

cleavage and dust brought a fortune. Finished, the gem was an inch and a quarter in diameter and weighed one hundred and twenty-eight carats.

Only on special occasions of state did the proud Duke wear the now famous diamond, and then only as a button in his hat.

When Louis XV mounted the throne, the gem graced the coronation crown and its lengthy career in court life began. The beautiful Marie Antoinette flaunted it at a ball. Tucked in a brooch, it held a cluster of white ostrich plumes to her large black hat, the envy of every woman present.

Again, during Napoleon's wars, the diamond came to the front. Over and over again he pawned it to German bankers in exchanged for "horse furniture" (cavalry equipment). From there it went to an Amsterdam banker, Vandenburg, until Napoleon released it again for what seems to be an appeasement of his famous vanity. In 1804, the Little Corporal had it set between the teeth of a crocodile in the hilt of his state

sword, which he wore when he crowned himself Emperor of France at Notre Dame Cathedral.

After Napoleon's time, the Regent appeared again and again in political fortunes. It survived the Second Empire and the Prussian War, and when the French crown jewels were auctioned in 1886 it was reserved because of its "historical value."

Before World War II, France placed the famous jewel in the central case of the most important gallery of the Louvre Museum in Paris. There it rested in its magnificent glory, safe from theft, in a glass case controlled by a secret device that automatically lowered it into a vault on the closing of the museum.

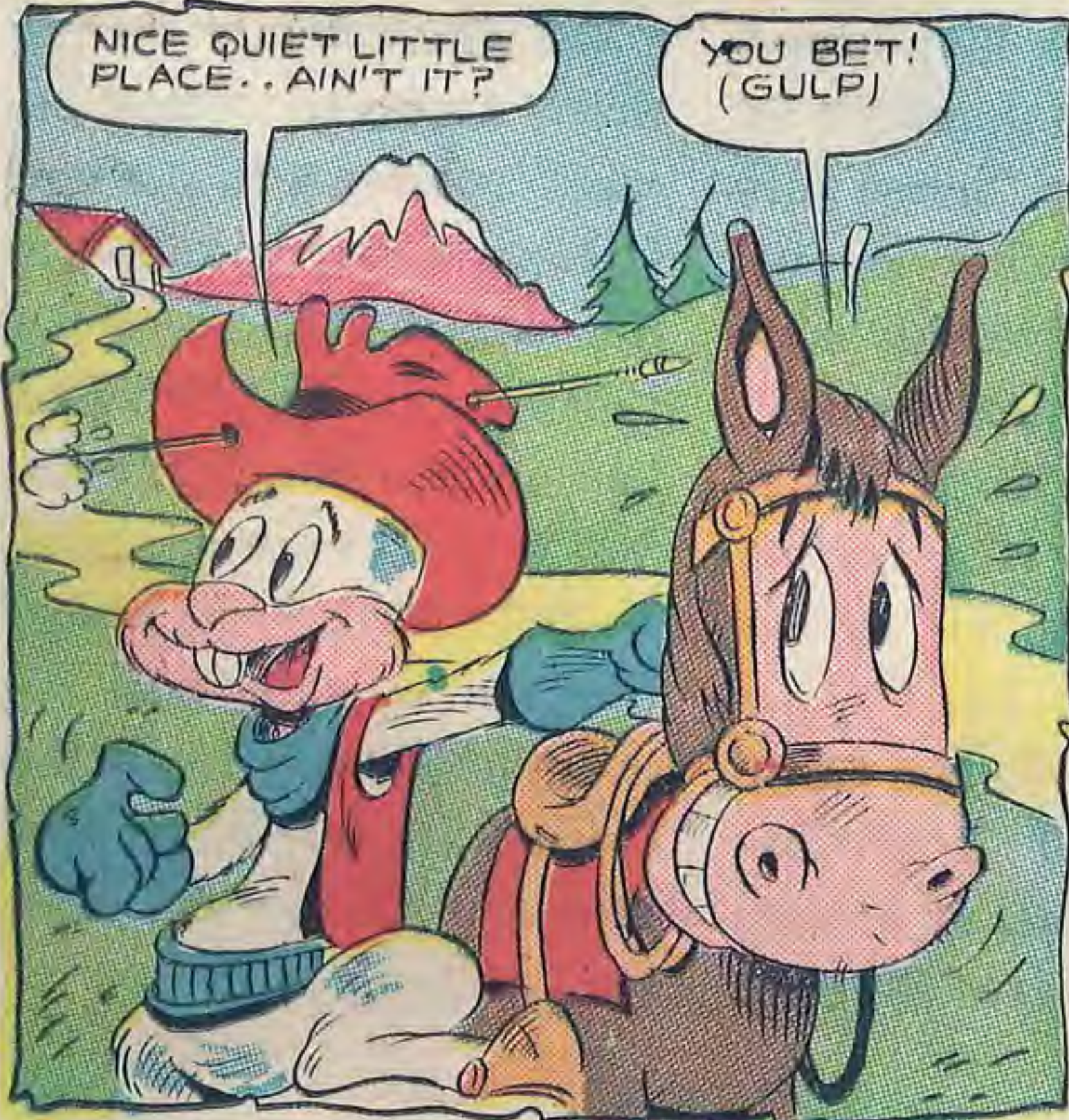
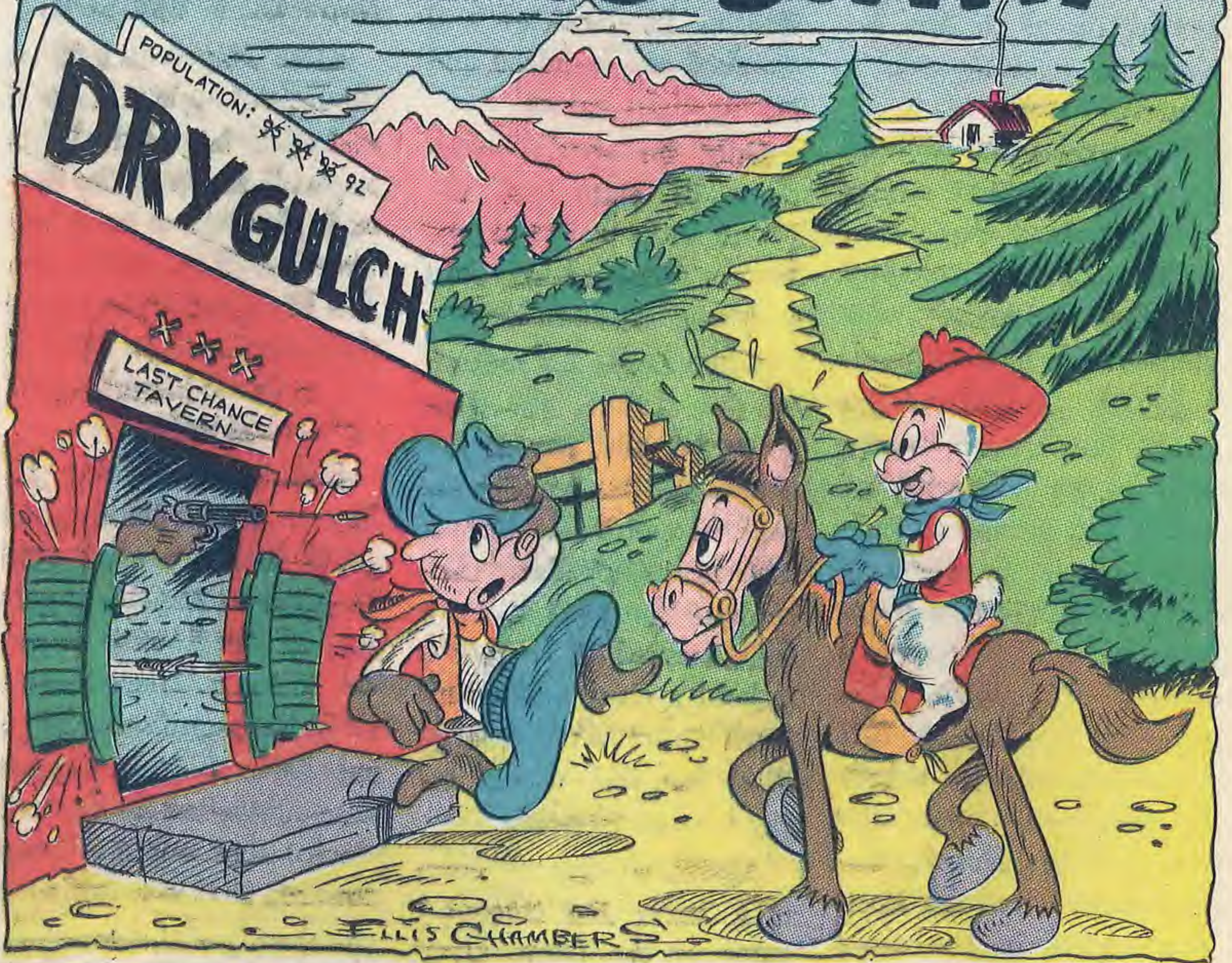
Its whereabouts during these troubled times remain unknown to prevent it from slipping into the blood-stained hands of the greatest thieves the world has ever known, the Nazis. Yet it shall once again be brought forth in its homeland to sparkle and enchant and keep fresh the fascinating tale of its past and the unfortold mystery of its future.

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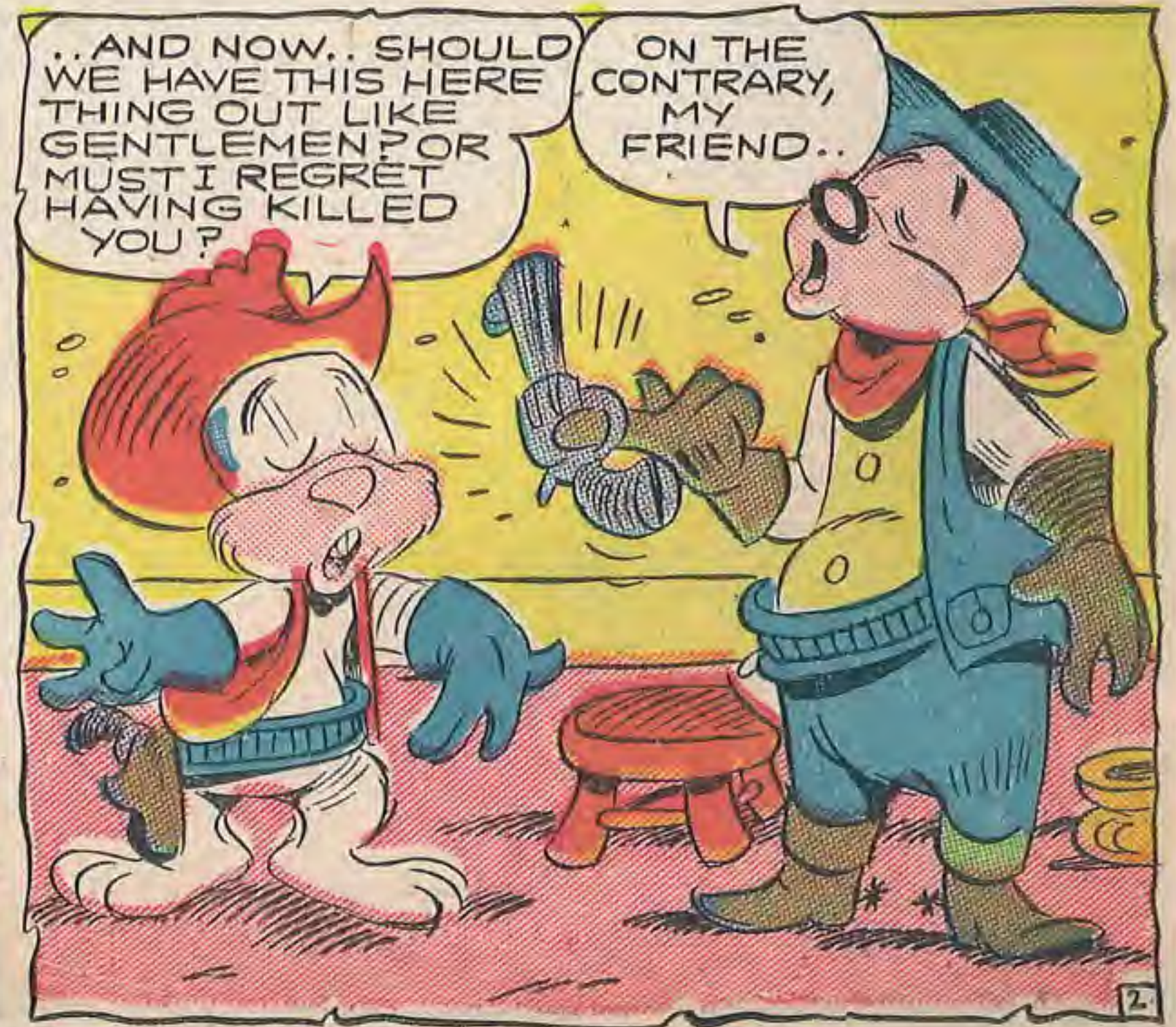
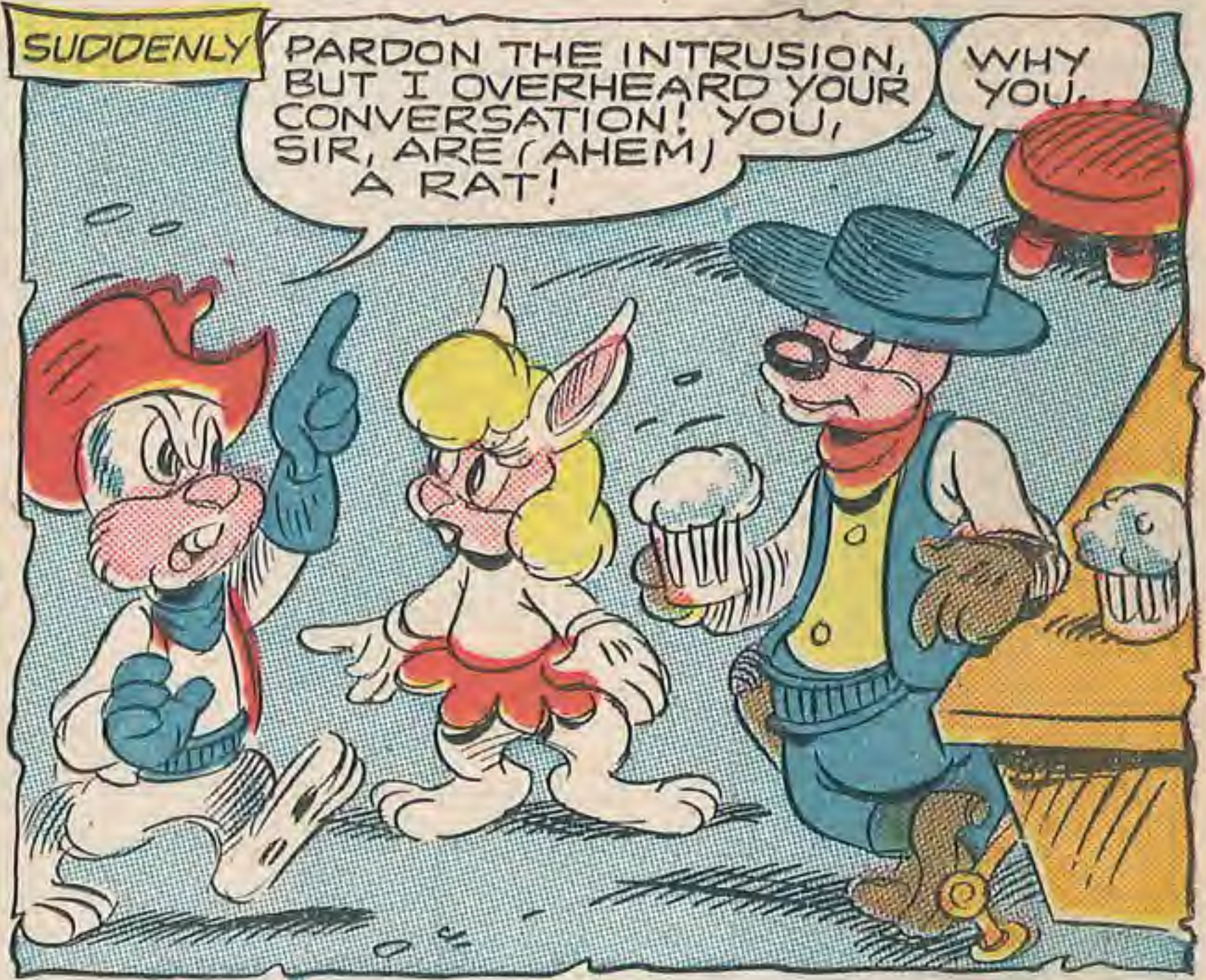
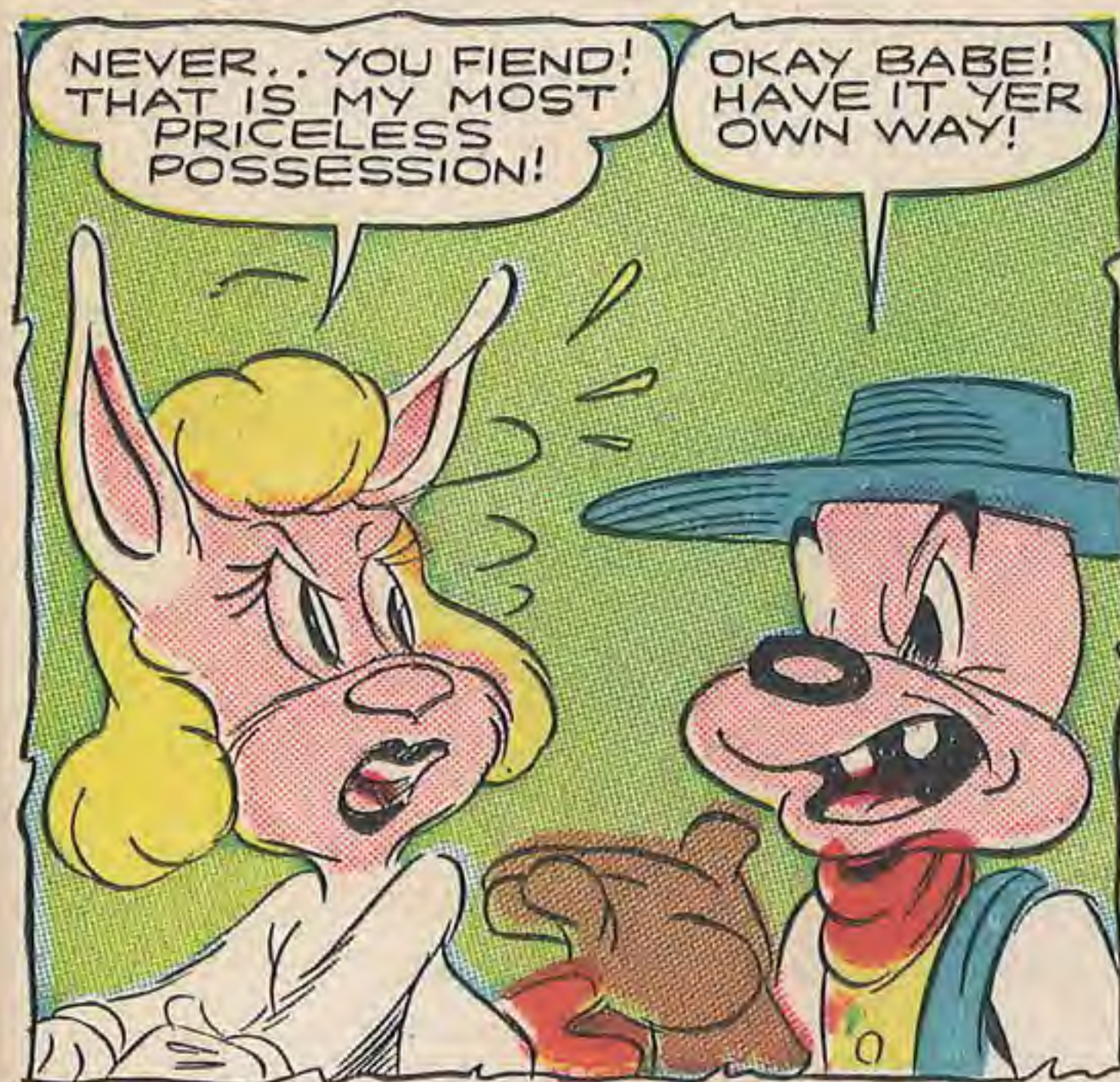
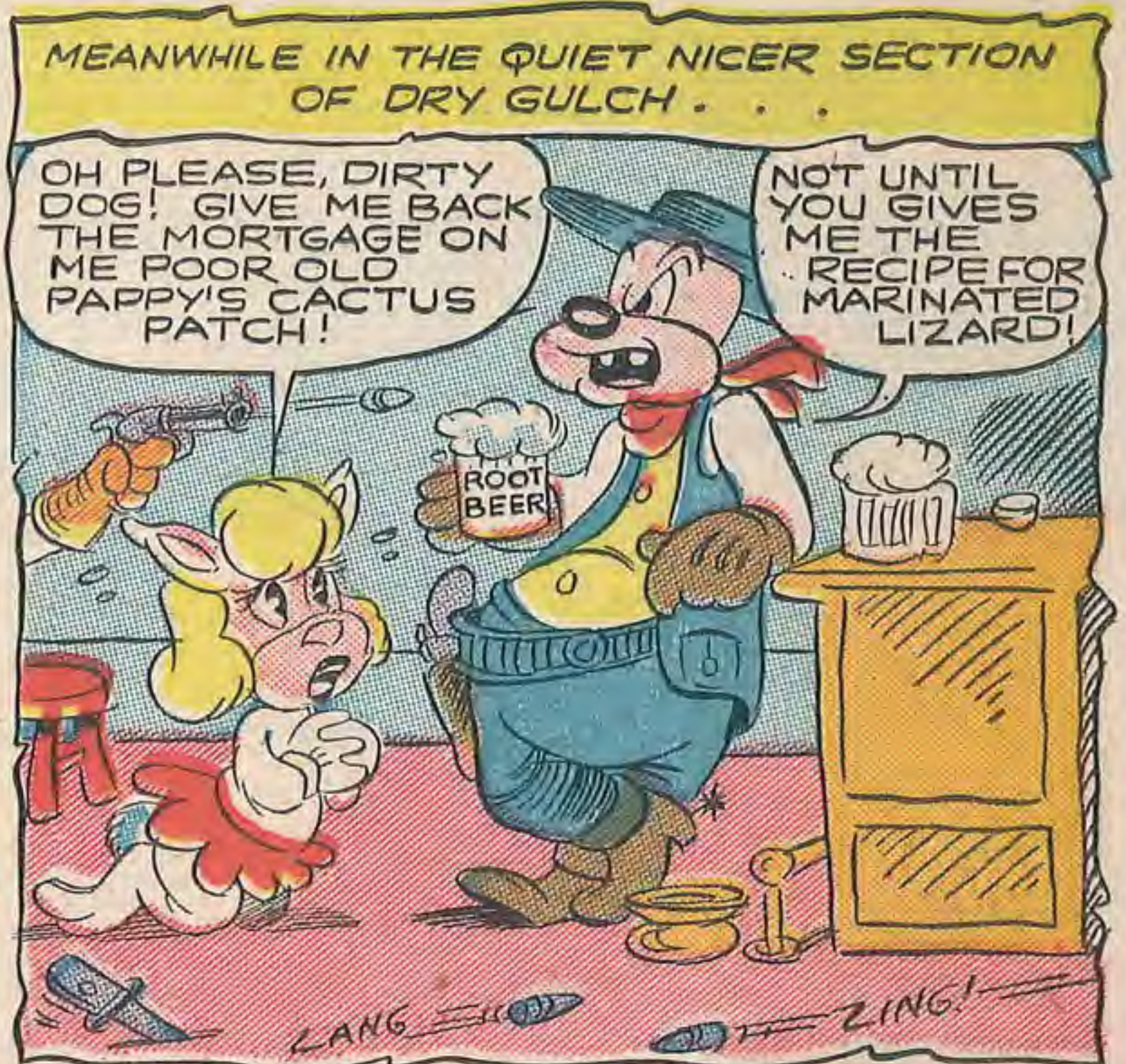
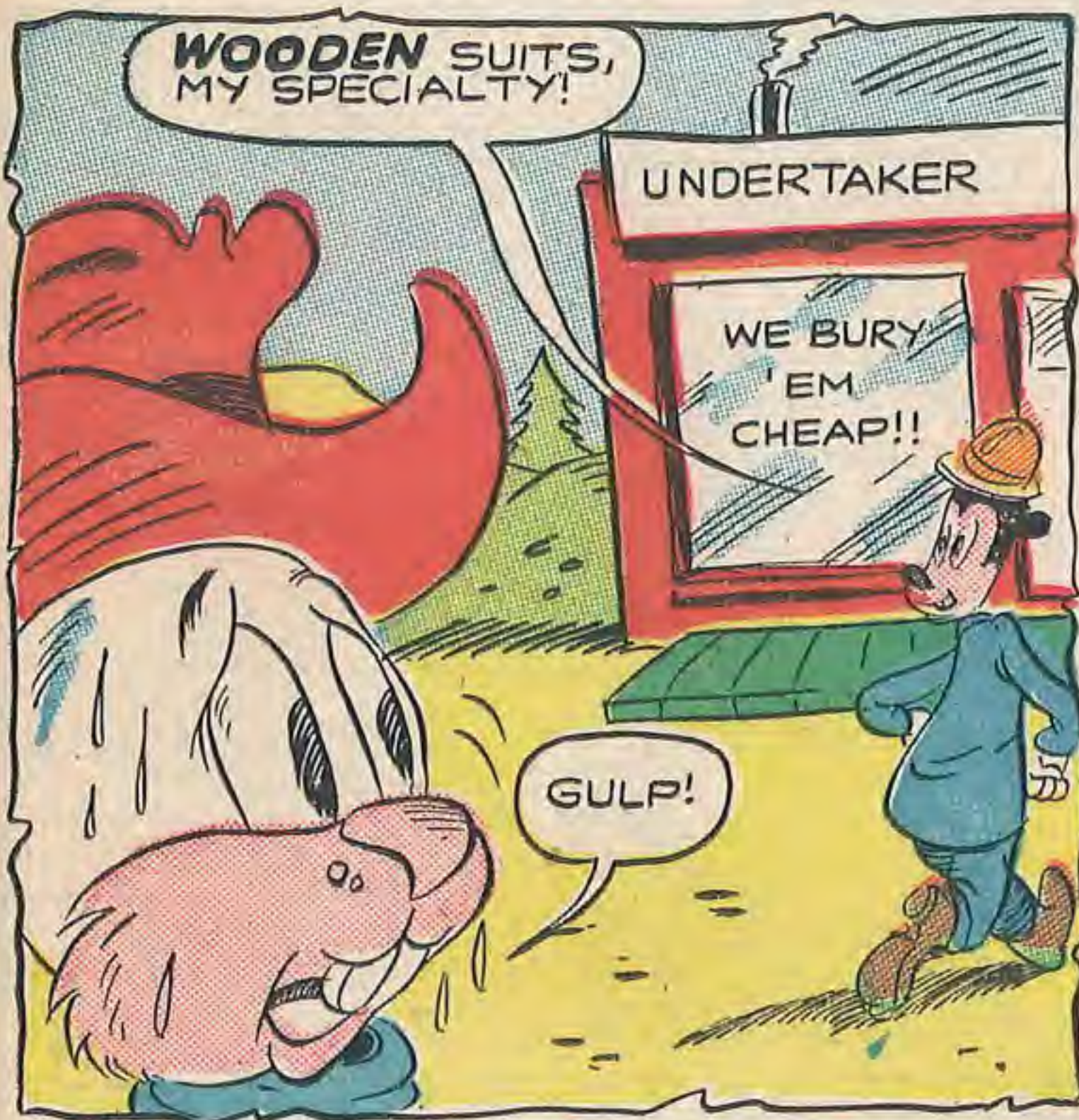


# HOPALONG BUNNY

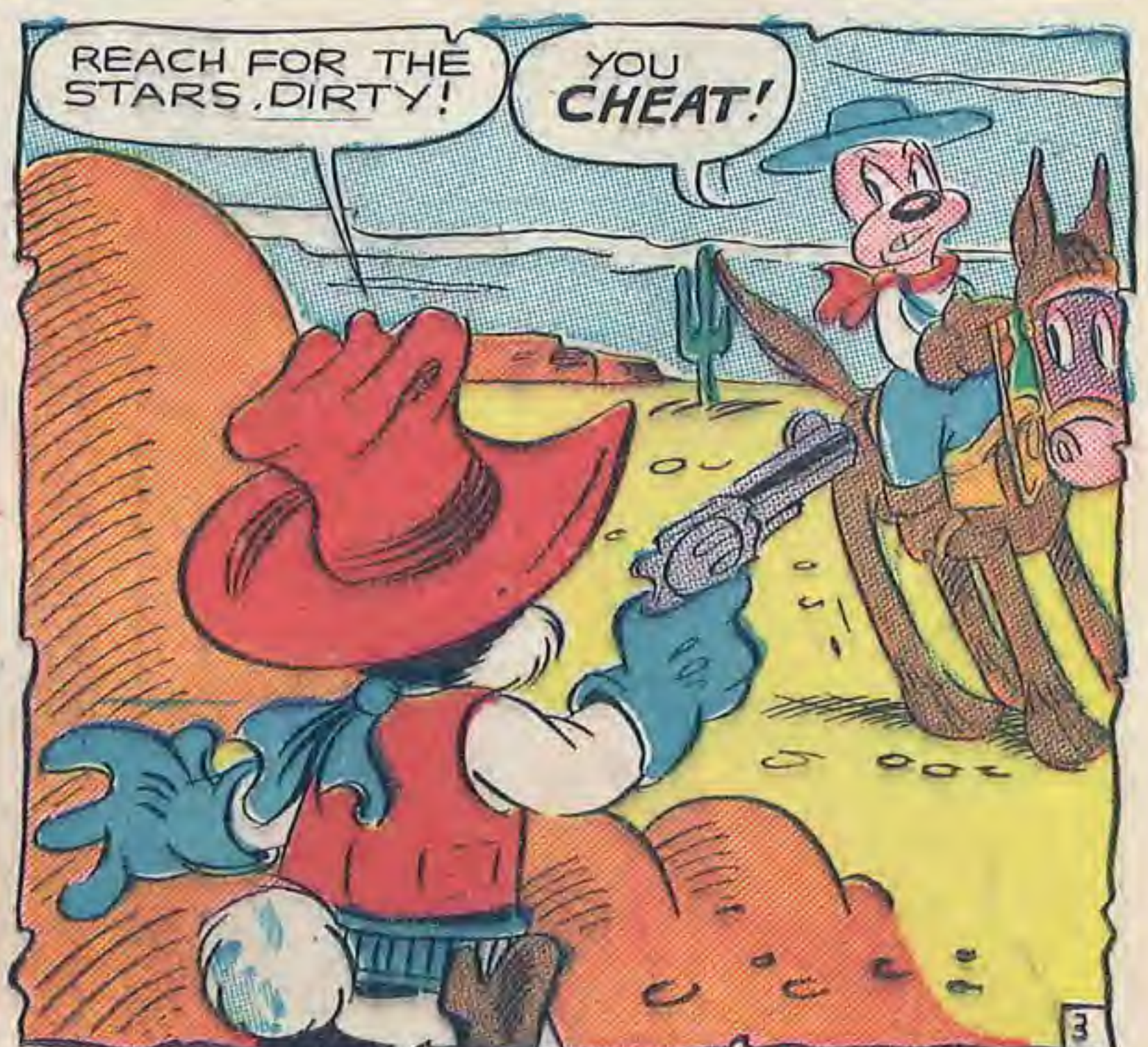
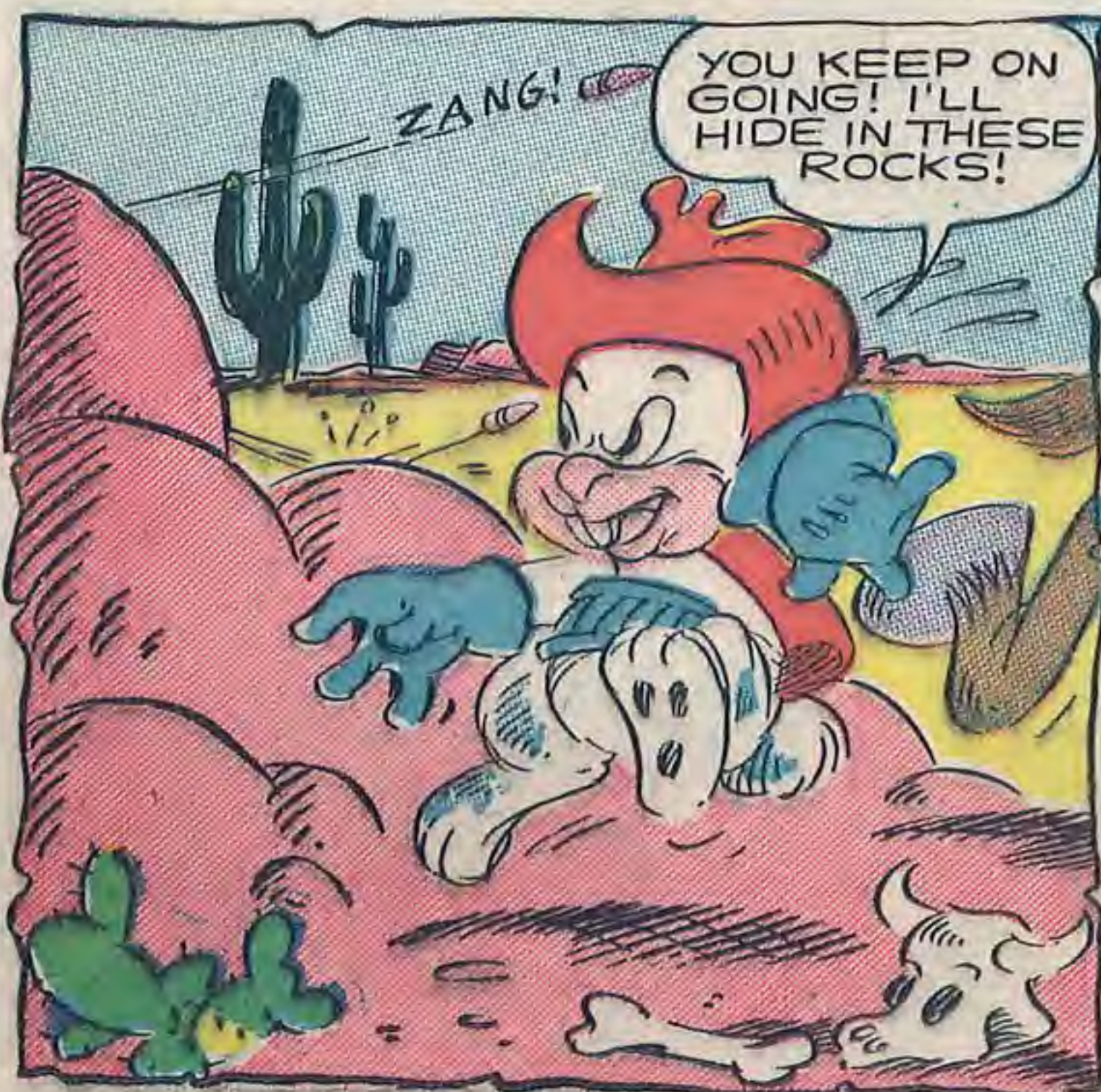
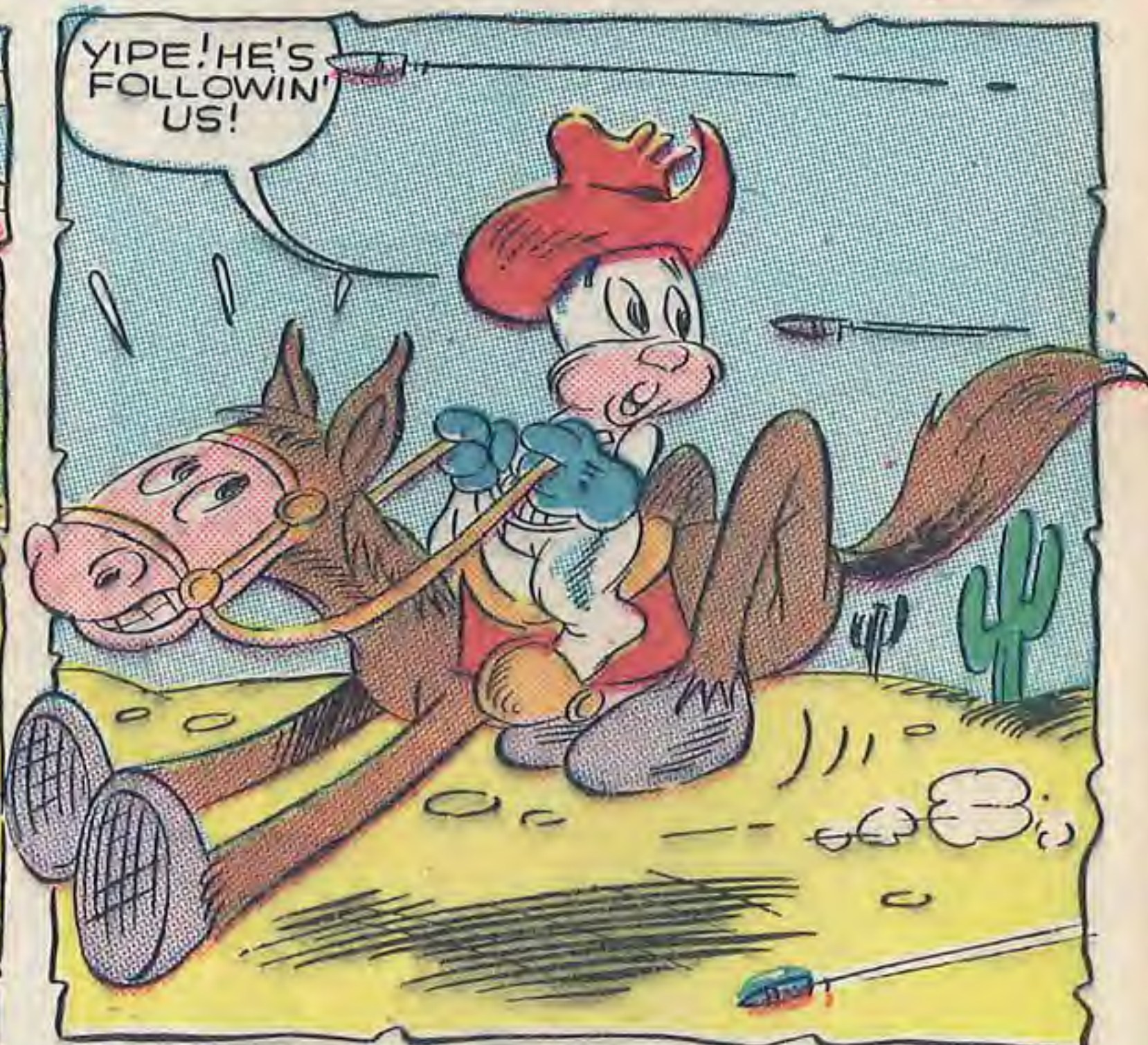
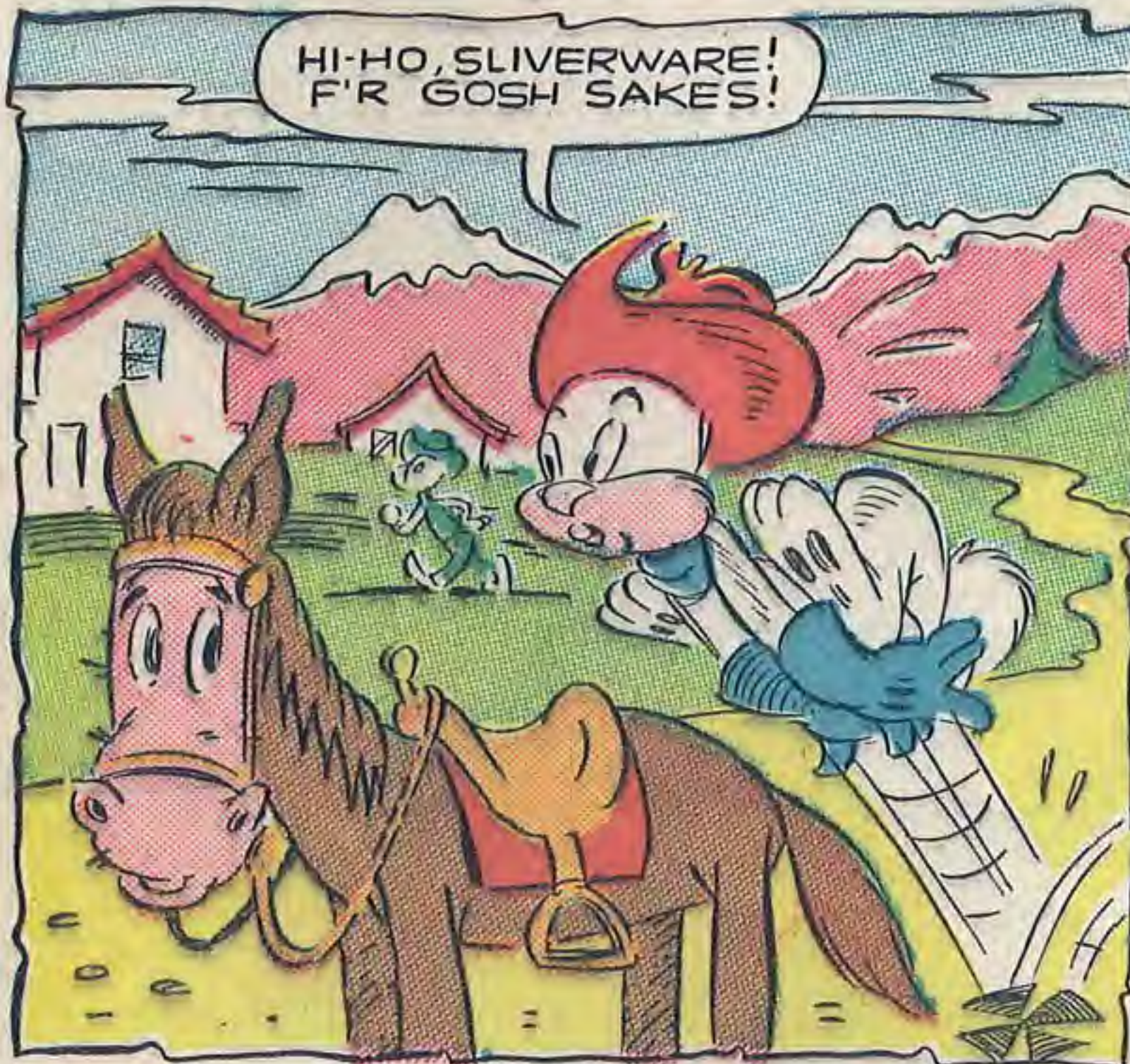
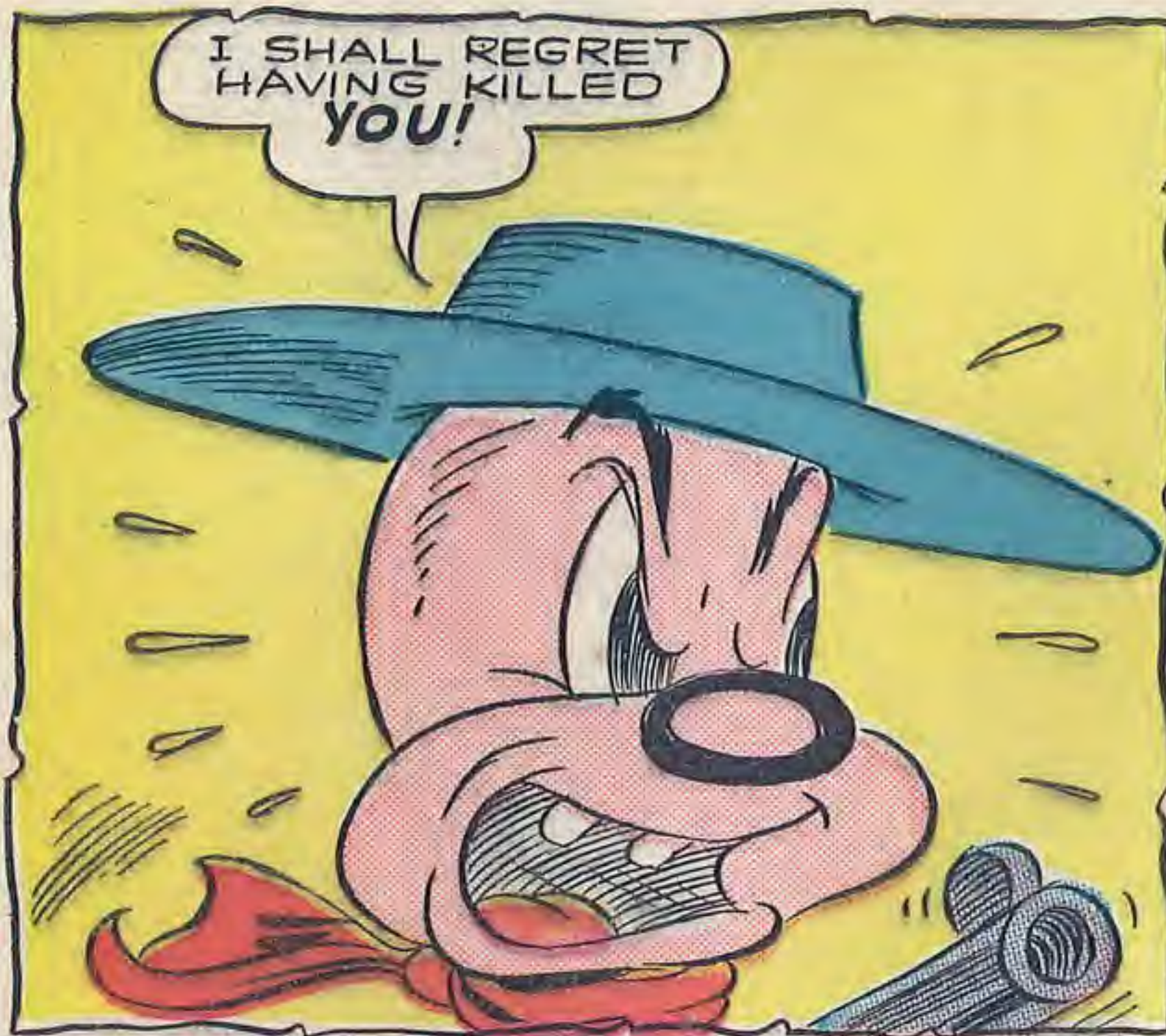
By  
Ellis  
Chambers



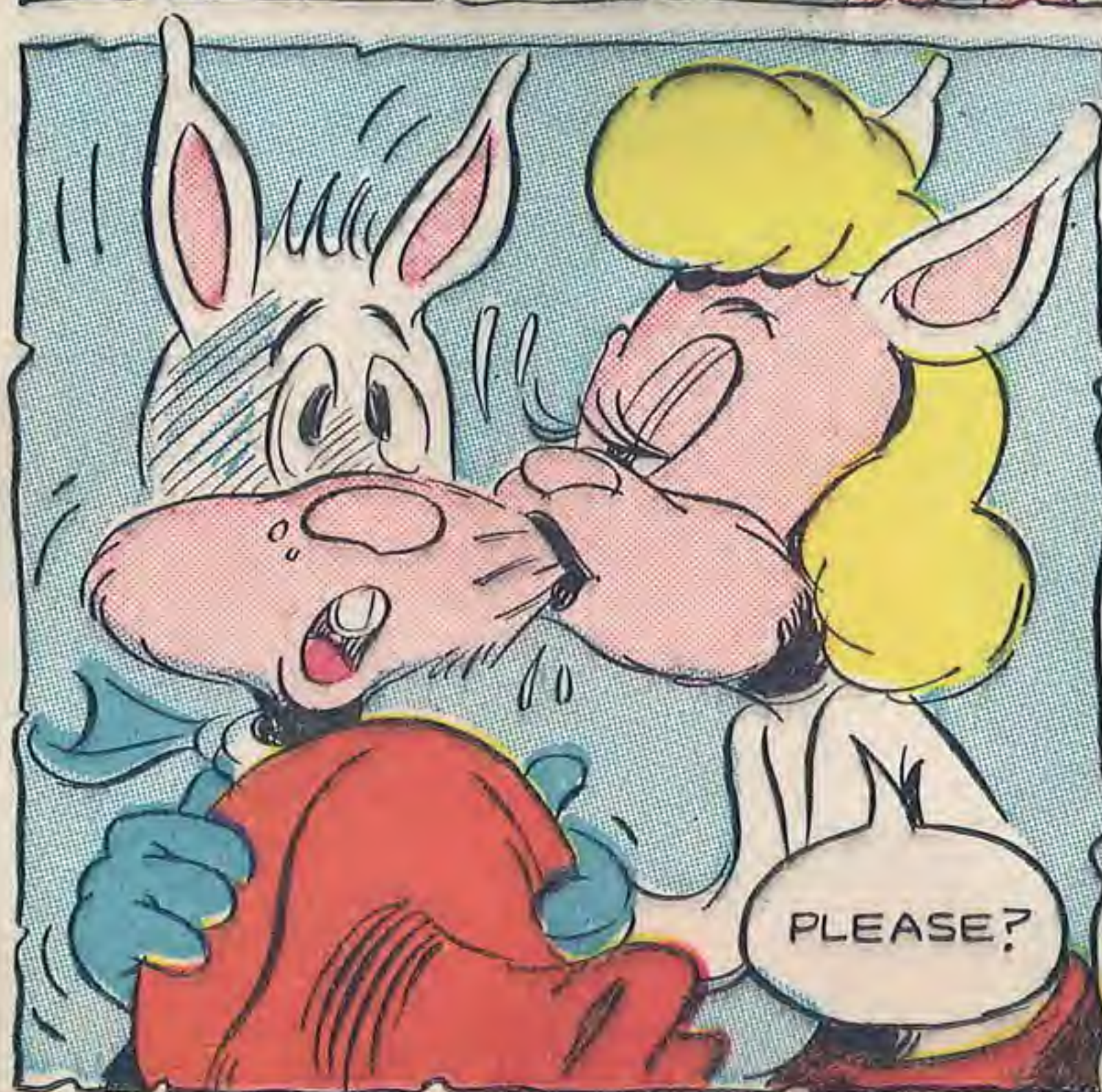
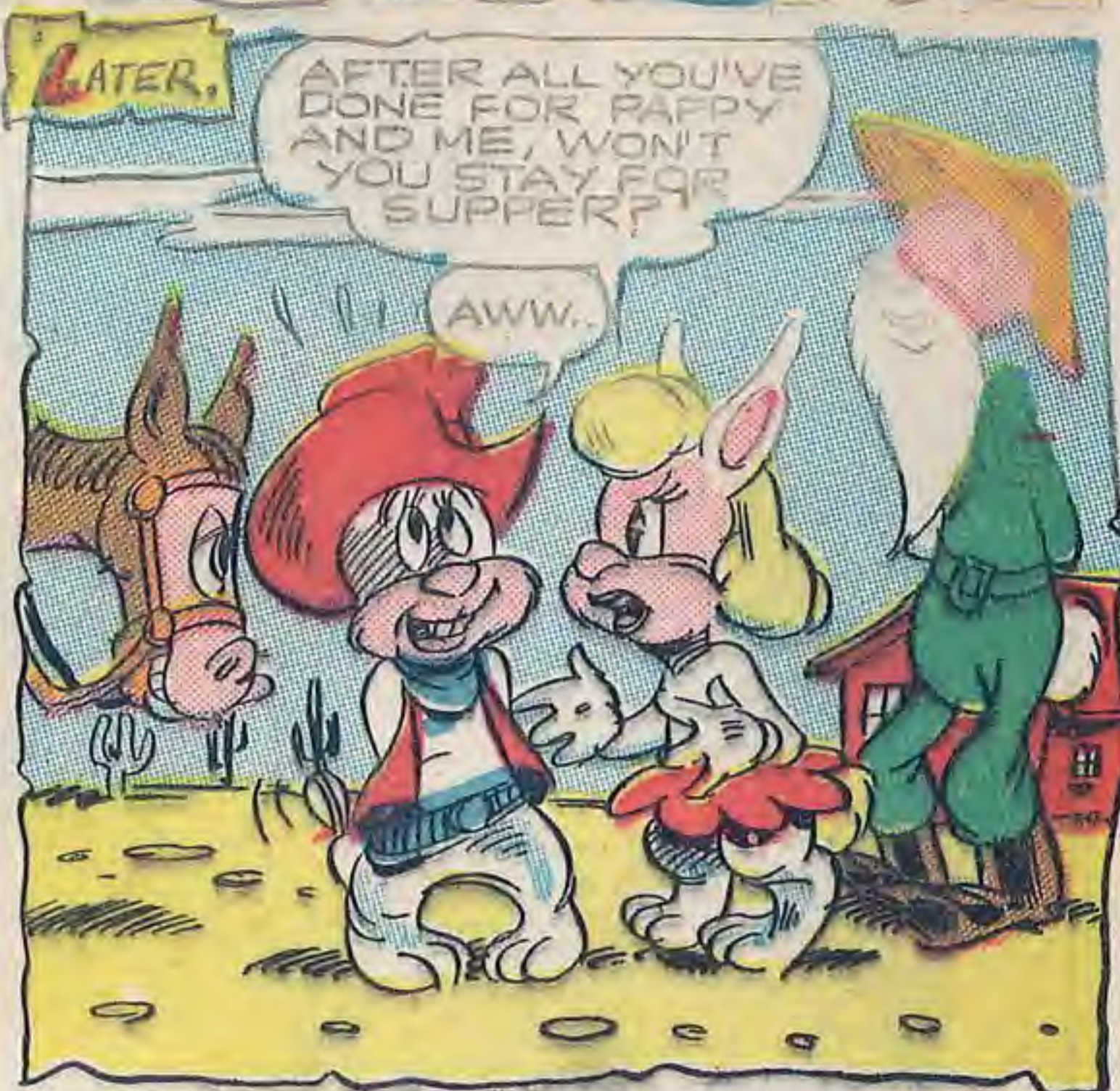
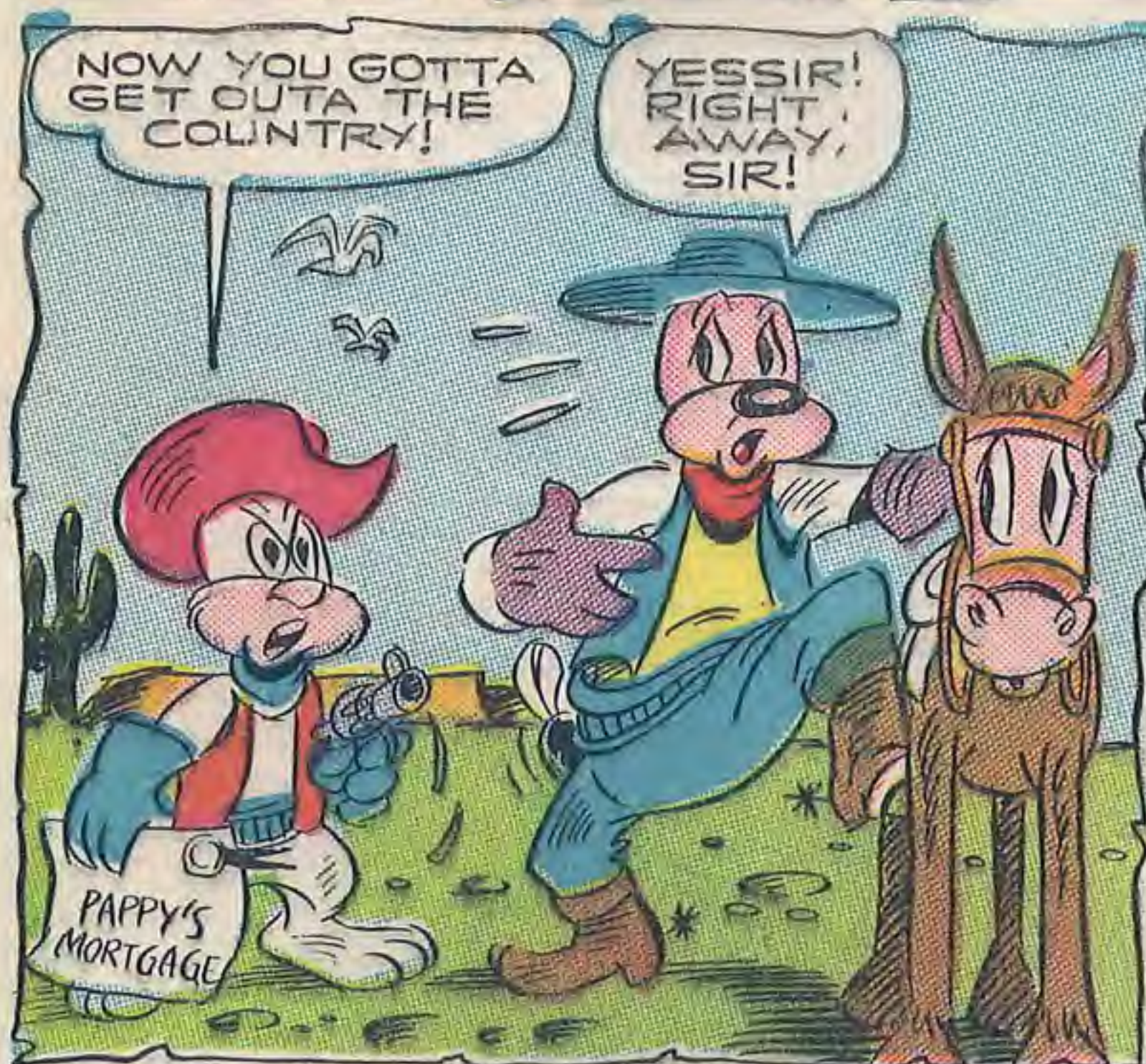
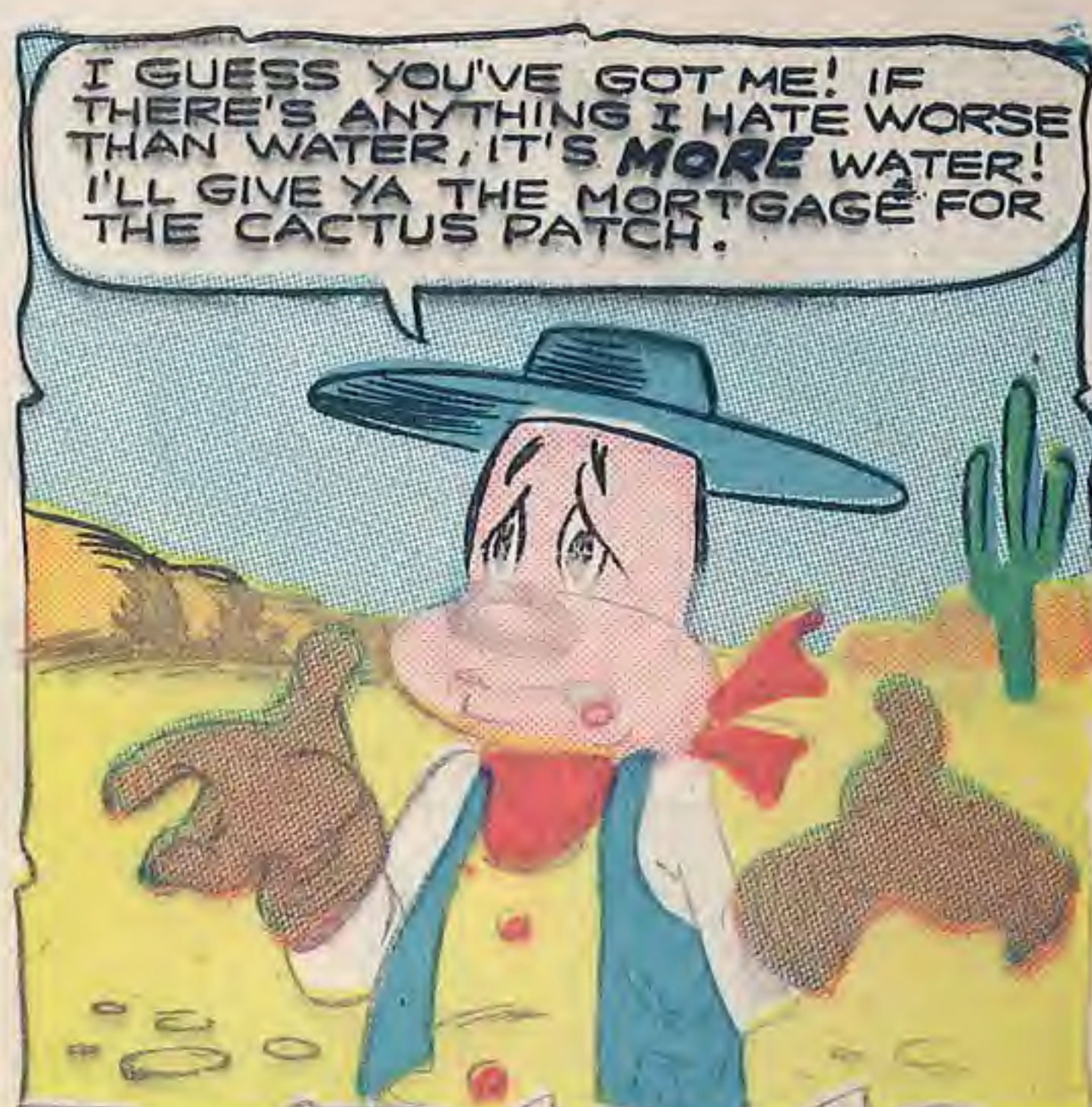
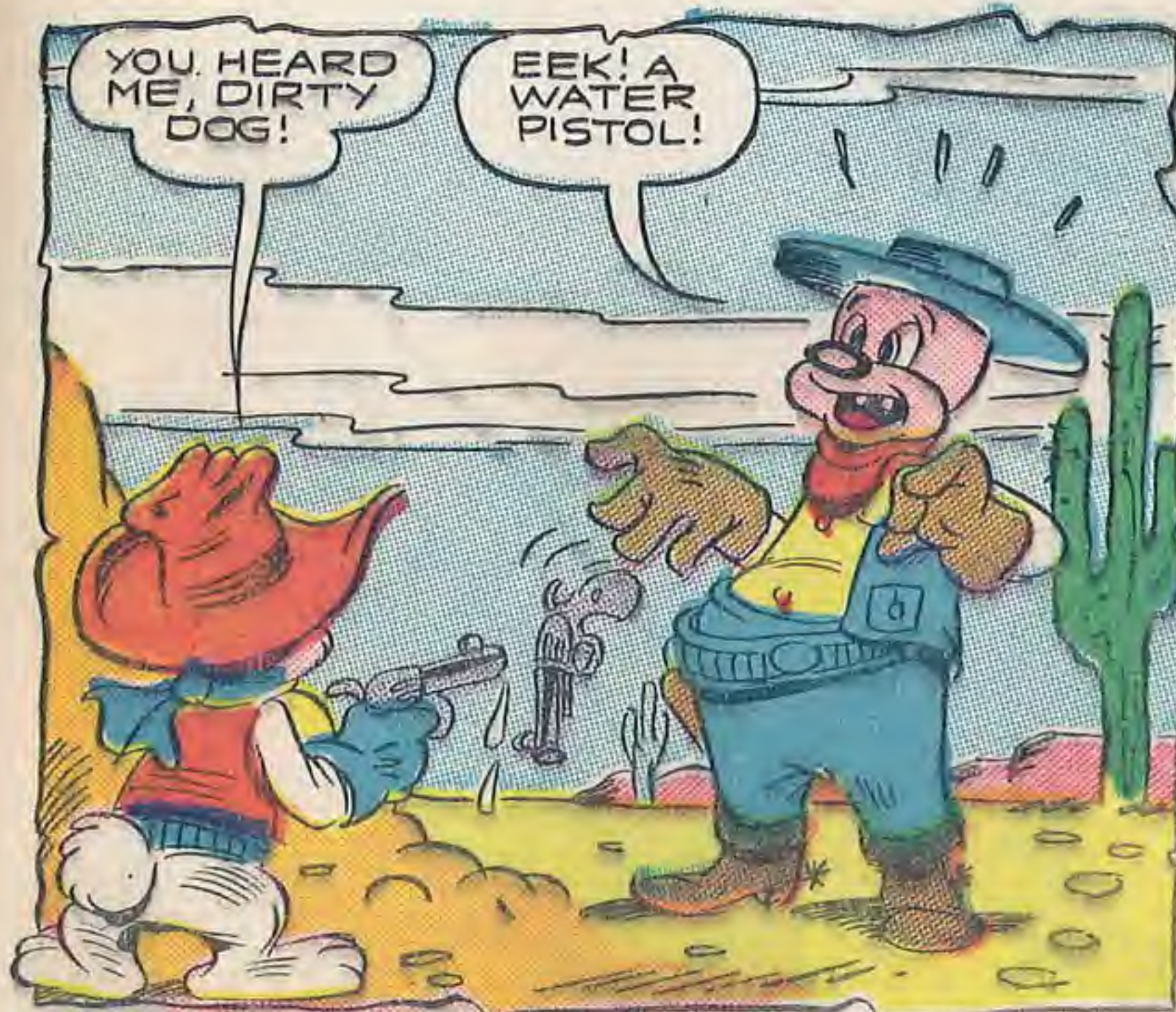














# SLEDGE STORM



IN THE FRIGID WATERS OF THE BERING SEA THREE MERCHANT SHIPS HAVE BEEN STRANGELY SUNK.. F.B.I. AGENT, SLEDGE STORM, IS COMMISSIONED TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY. . .

SLEDGE GETS THE NEWS BY RADIO FROM NOME. . .

HEAR THAT? THREE SHIPS SUNK..AND NOBODY CAN TELL ME THEY ALL HIT ICEBERGS!

I'LL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE, JACK. MAKE A REPORT TO WASHINGTON.. HUH? DID SOMEBODY KNOCK?

IT'S A SCARED ESKIMO LAD. . .

WHAT'S UP?

I, UMLAK, COME. CHIEF SICK. DOGS TOO.. THEY DIE! YOU COME SAVE THEM!

OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU, UMLAK, BUT TELL ME MORE FIRST!

OUR CHIEF, HE GO HUNTING FOR SEAL.

THE TRIBE WAS PREPARING A GREAT FEAST.. MANY SEALS AND FISH WERE NEEDED. . .





THE BEST HUNTERS STALKED THE SEALS BUT THE CHIEF'S HARPOON FLEW MOST SWIFTLY.



THAT NIGHT THE CHIEF GAVE A BLUBBER FEAST. EVEN THE DOGS HAD THEIR SHARE..



BUT BEFORE LONG THE DINERS WERE WRITHING IN AGONY.



SLEDGE IS TAKEN TO THE CHIEF FIRST.



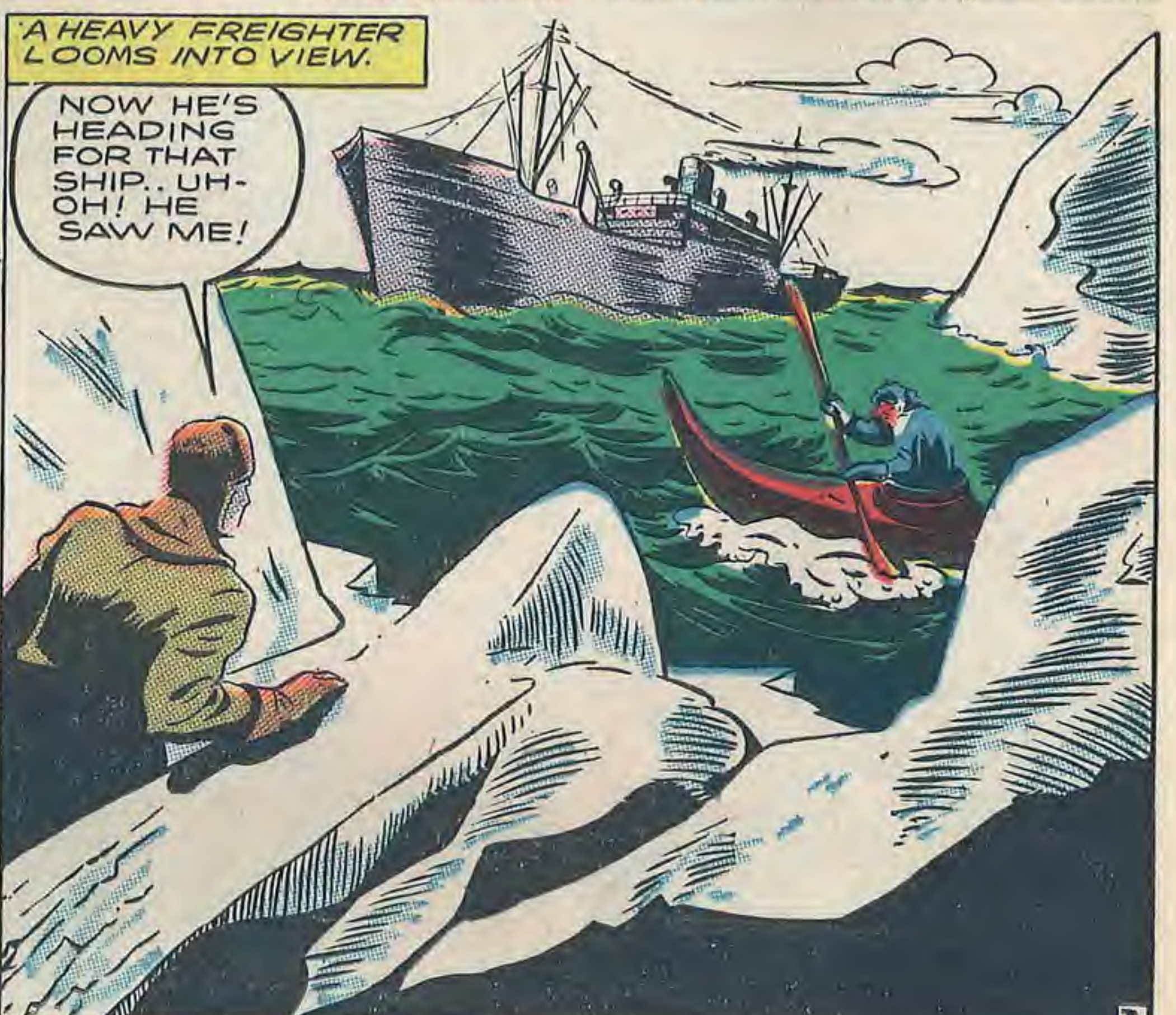
SUDDENLY A PANICKY NATIVE DASHES IN.



IN A SECOND SLEDGE RUNS TO THE SEAL STREWN BEACH.









WITH LIGHTNING STROKES, THE ESKIMO PADDLES TOWARD THE FREIGHTER. . .



IN HIS HASTE, THE NATIVE COLLIDES WITH A JAGGED FLOE EDGE AND IS FORCED TO ABANDON THE KAYAK. . .



TRAITOR! FORCE YOUR PEOPLE INTO STARVATION, EH? I'VE A GOOD MIND TO FEED YOU TO THE FISHES!



SLEDGE QUICKLY SWITCHES CLOTHES. THE ESKIMO IS SPREAD-EAGLED HELPLESSLY ON THE ICE. . .



THE FREIGHTER'S OFFICERS ASSUME SLEDGE IS THE NATIVE. THEY GIVE HIM FREE ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE SHIP. . .



HE MANAGES TO GET INTO THE CHART ROOM AND. . .



FURTHER EXPLORATION IN THE HOLD REVEALS THE WHOLE STORY. . .





QUICKLY IMPROVISING A TIMED FUSE, SLEDGE PLOTS HIS NEXT MOVE.

I'VE GOT ABOUT FOUR MINUTES! HAVE TO SINK THAT SUB, TOO!

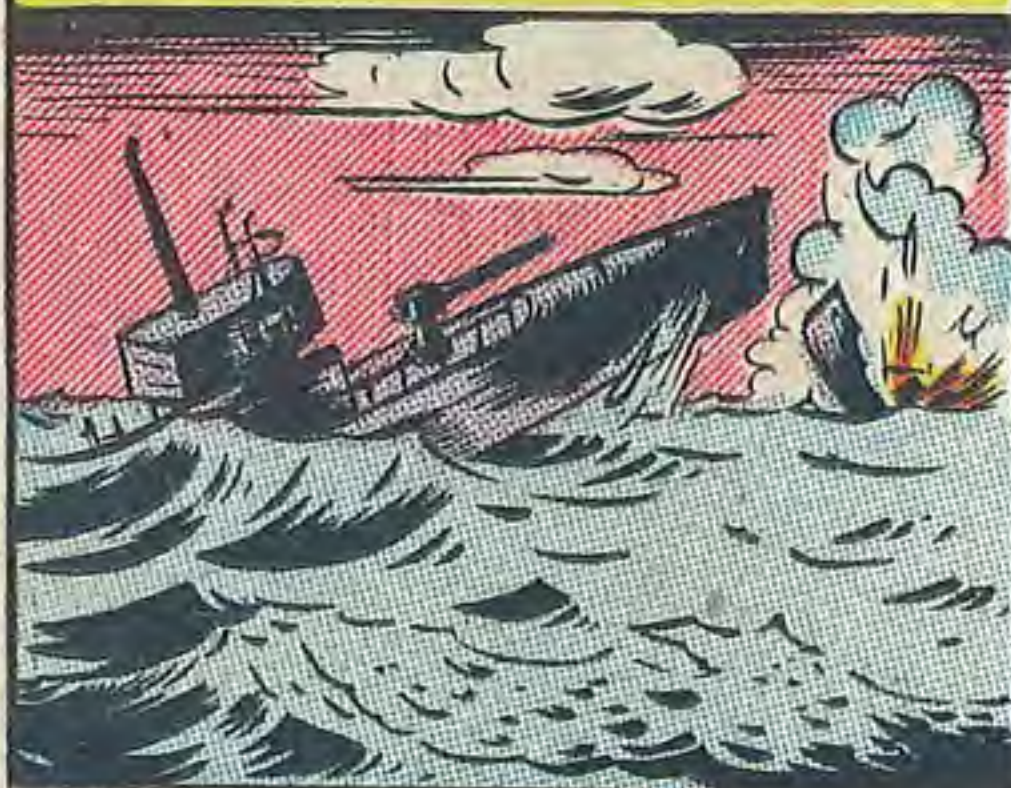


NO ONE NOTICES THE SMALL KAYAK LEAVE THE FREIGHTER.

GOLLY, WISH THIS TUB HAD WINGS!



THE U-BOAT'S GRAY NOSE POKES UP TO INVESTIGATE.



BUT IT CANNOT APPROACH CLOSELY BECAUSE OF LOOSE MINES WHICH HAVE DRIFTED OUT OF THE SINKING HOLD.



GOOD! THE SUB'S BETWEEN TWO ICEBERGS! I'LL BLOW THEM BOTH UP.



THE FLOATING PIECES WILL PILE UP ON THE SHIP.



A SECOND LATER A TERRIFIC BLAST CLEAVES THE FREIGHTER IN TWO.



WITH A CRACKLING, CRUNCHING THUNDER, THE HELPLESS SUBMARINE IS GROUND BETWEEN THE GREAT BERGS.



WELL! THAT'S THE END OF RAIDING IN THESE WATERS!



BLUBBER AGAIN...UGH! AND I'M STARVING!

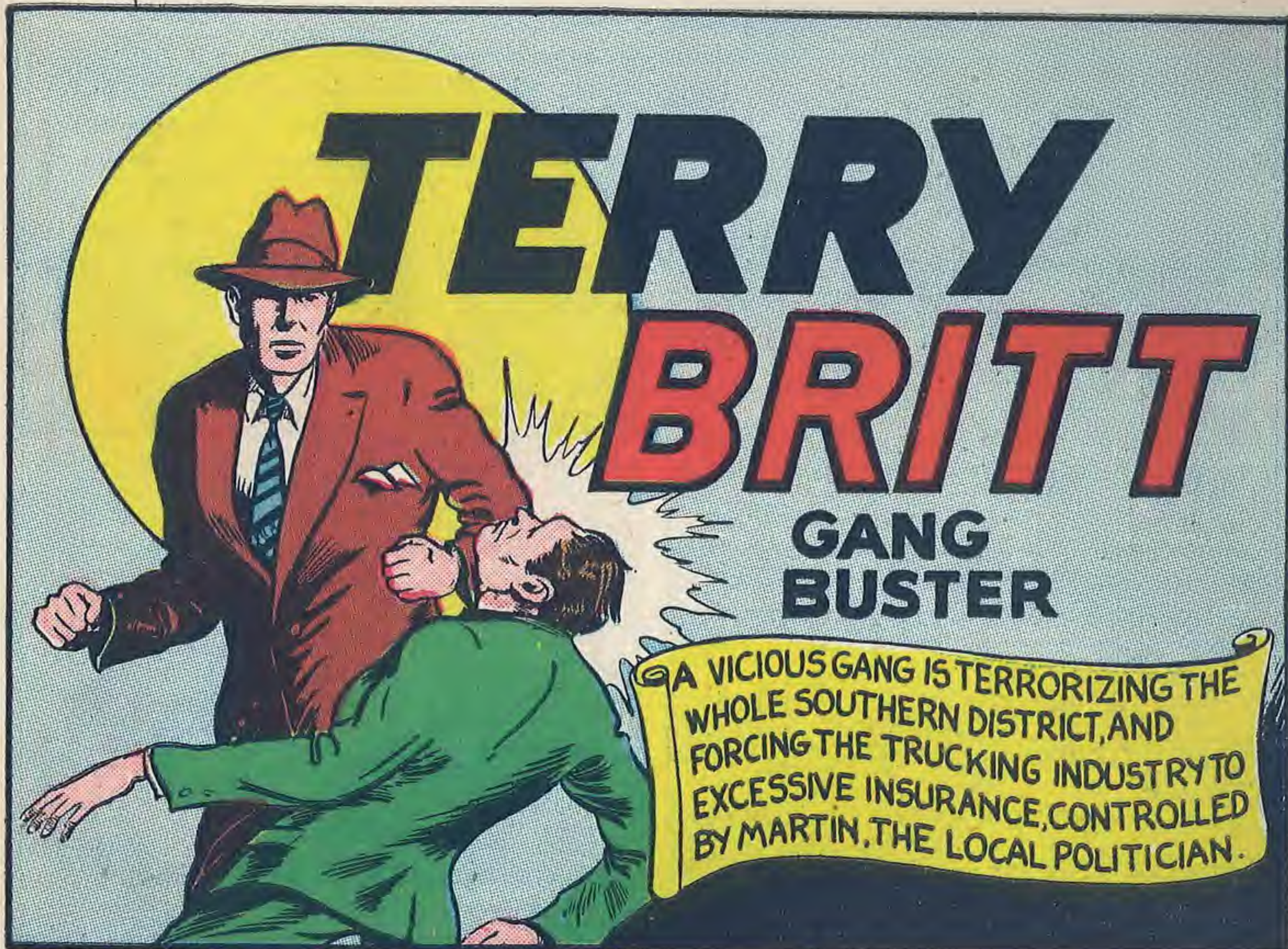
NO..THANKS! I..ER...ALREADY ATE!

THAT NIGHT THE NATIVES HOLD ANOTHER FEAST. THE GUEST OF HONOR IS SLEDGE STORM.



**BUY MORE  
WAR BONDS**





IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE DAY,  
A GANG STOPS A TRUCK.....



THIS WILL CONVINCE YOU, BUDDY,  
THAT YOU NEED OUR INSURANCE!



YOU BETTER SIGN THE POLICY, IF  
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!



ALL RIGHT, I'LL SIGN IT.  
JUST LEAVE MY TRUCKS  
ALONE!

PAY YOUR DUES  
ON TIME, AND  
WE WON'T  
BOTHER YOU!







EXTRA! EXTRA!  
INSURANCE GANG  
INVADES CITY!  
POLICE HELPLESS!



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE USELESS, CHIEF.  
THE WITNESSES ARE AFRAID TO TALK!

IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CITY, A SECRET MEETING IS HELD BY SIX MASKED MEN.

IT IS OUR DUTY, GENTLEMEN, TO EXPOSE THE POLITICIAN WHO RUNS THE RACKET!



IN VIEW OF HIS FINE RECORD ON THE POLICE FORCE, WE'VE DECIDED THAT MR. TERRY BRITT IS BEST SUITED FOR THE JOB OF RIDDING OUR CITY OF THE SCANDALOUS INSURANCE RACKET!



TWO HOURS LATER, TERRY BRITT APPEARS AT B.&G. TRUCKING COMPANY...



I EXPECT THE INSURANCE COLLECTORS TODAY..

I'LL WAIT FOR THEM.

AND AN HOUR LATER, THE CROOKS APPEAR.



GET UP THAT PAYMENT, BLAKE, OR...

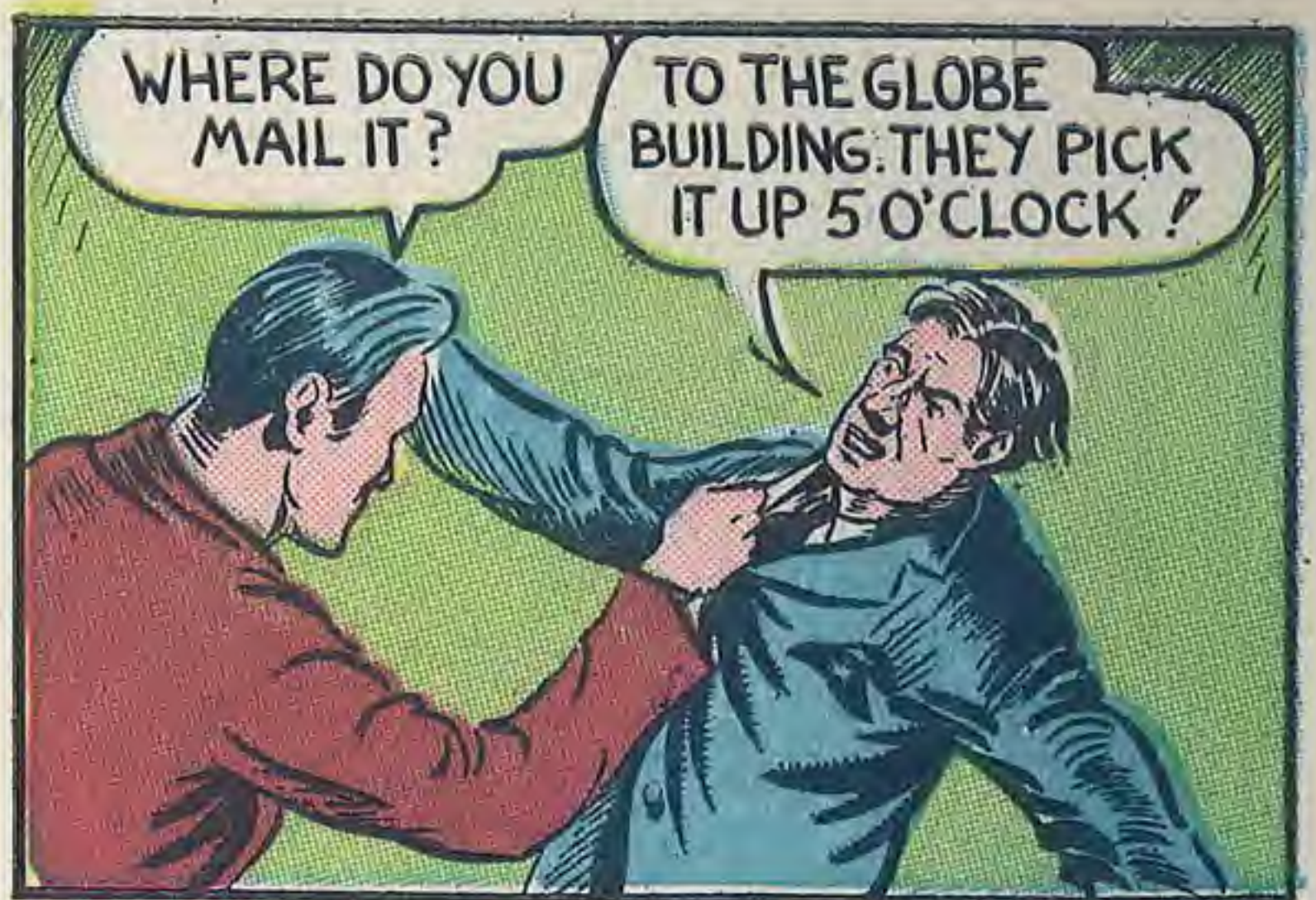


HERE'S THE LAST PAYMENT FOR YOU MUGS!



AND THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!









NICE WORK, JOE!



HERE'S YOUR HERO, BOSS!  
GENTLE AS A LAMB!

GOOD WORK, BOYS!  
I'VE GOT AN EASY  
WAY TO GET RID  
OF HIM!



I'LL GIVE HIM A  
MALARIA INJECTION,  
AND LET HIM ROT IN  
THE CELLAR!



TERRY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS BUT WAITS  
FOR THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO ACT....



HE SUDDENLY LEAPS TOWARD MARTIN....

I- I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE..



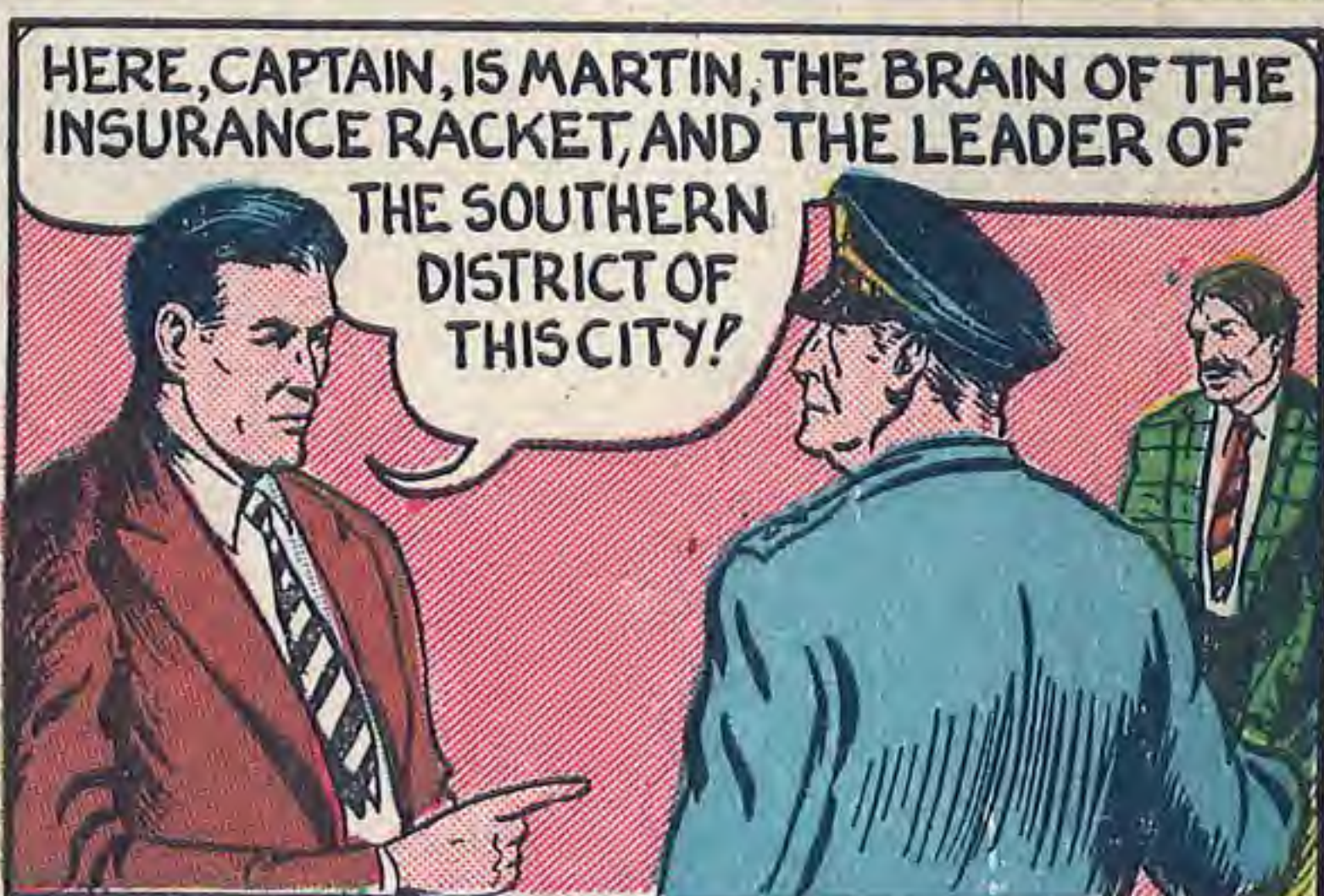
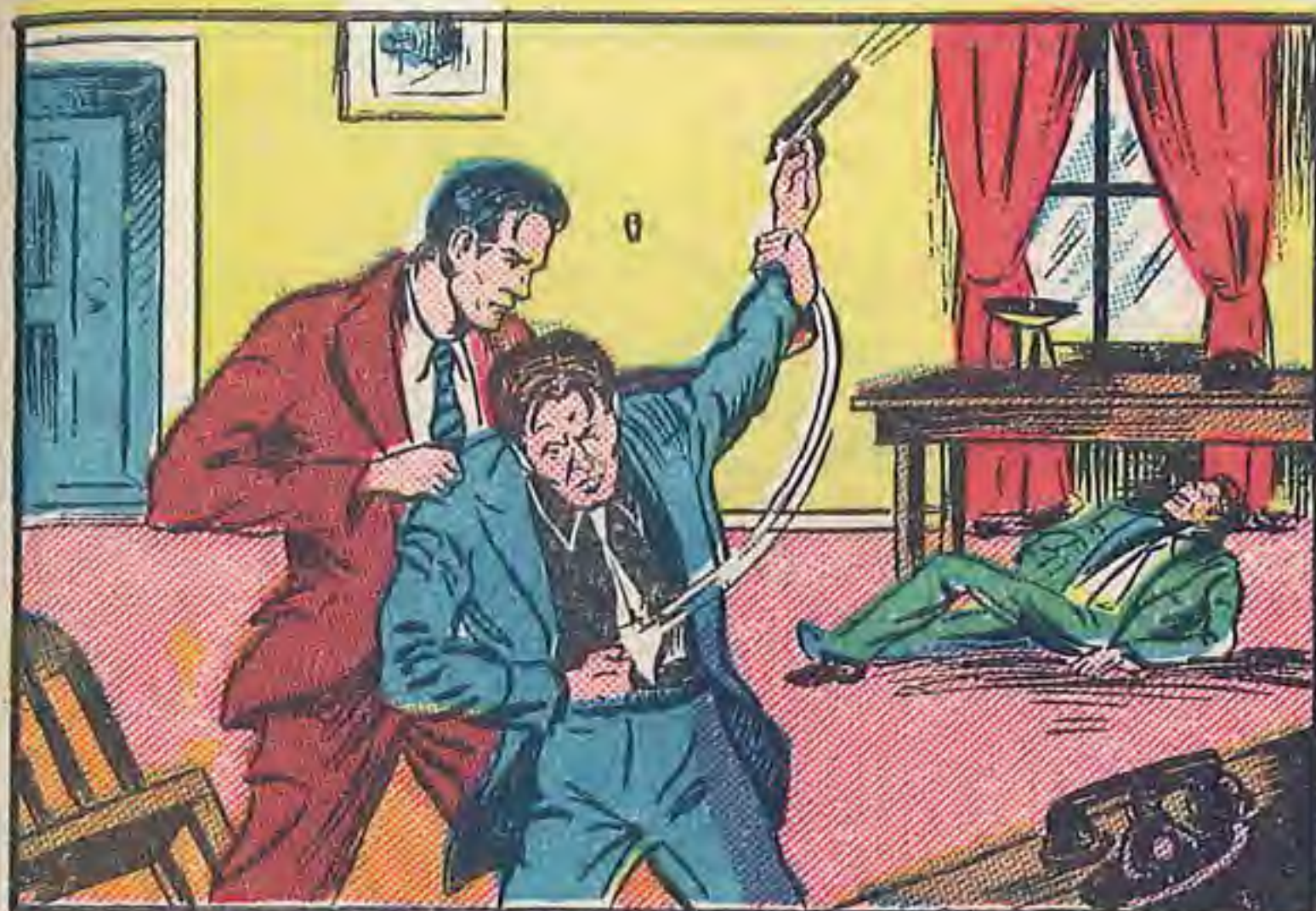
DROP THAT... YOU'RE  
LIABLE TO HURT  
SOMEONE!



NOW TO GIVE YOU  
A DOSE OF THE  
STUFF YOUR  
THUGS DISH OUT!







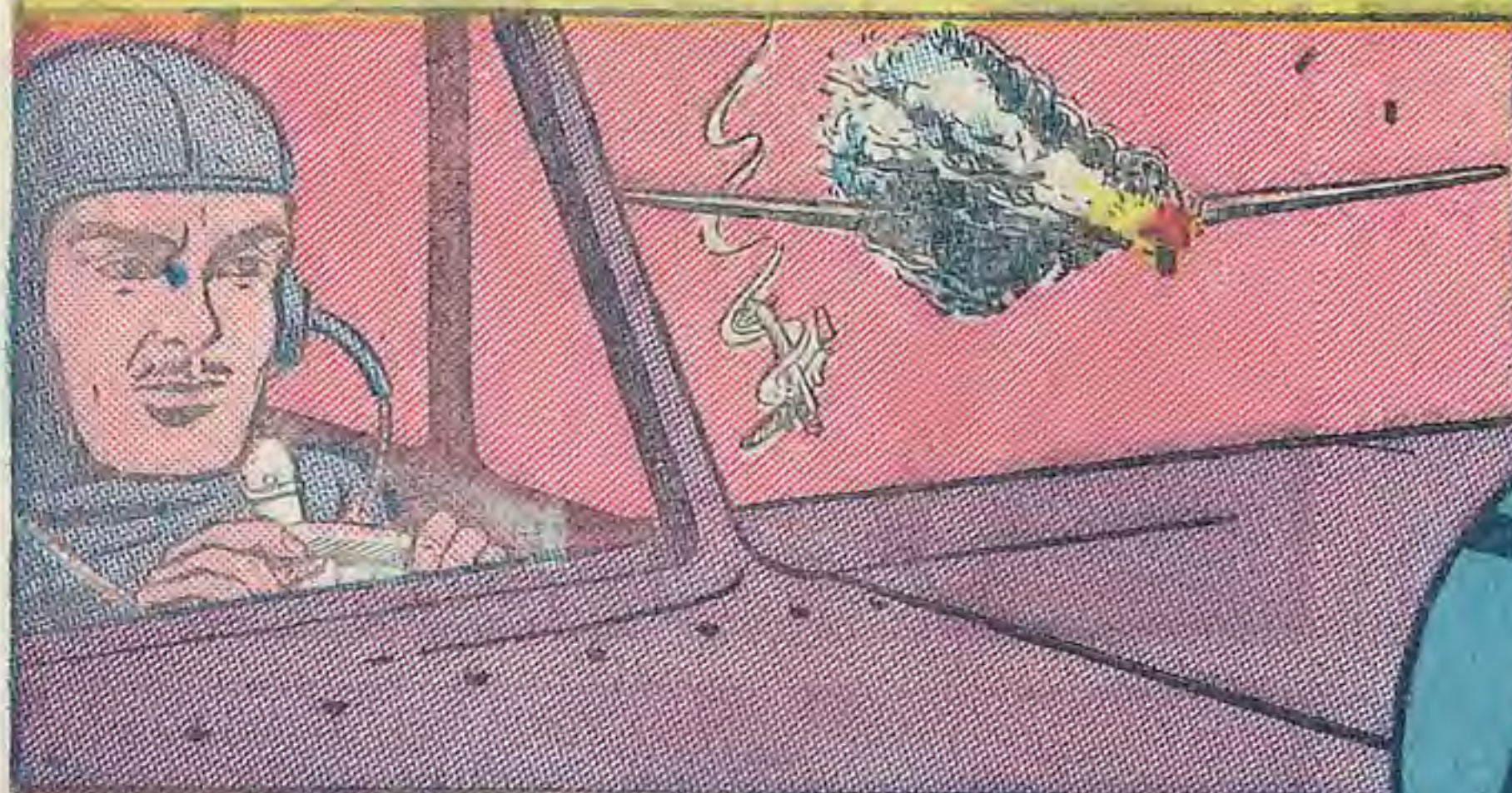


*Captain*

# BLAZE STEEL

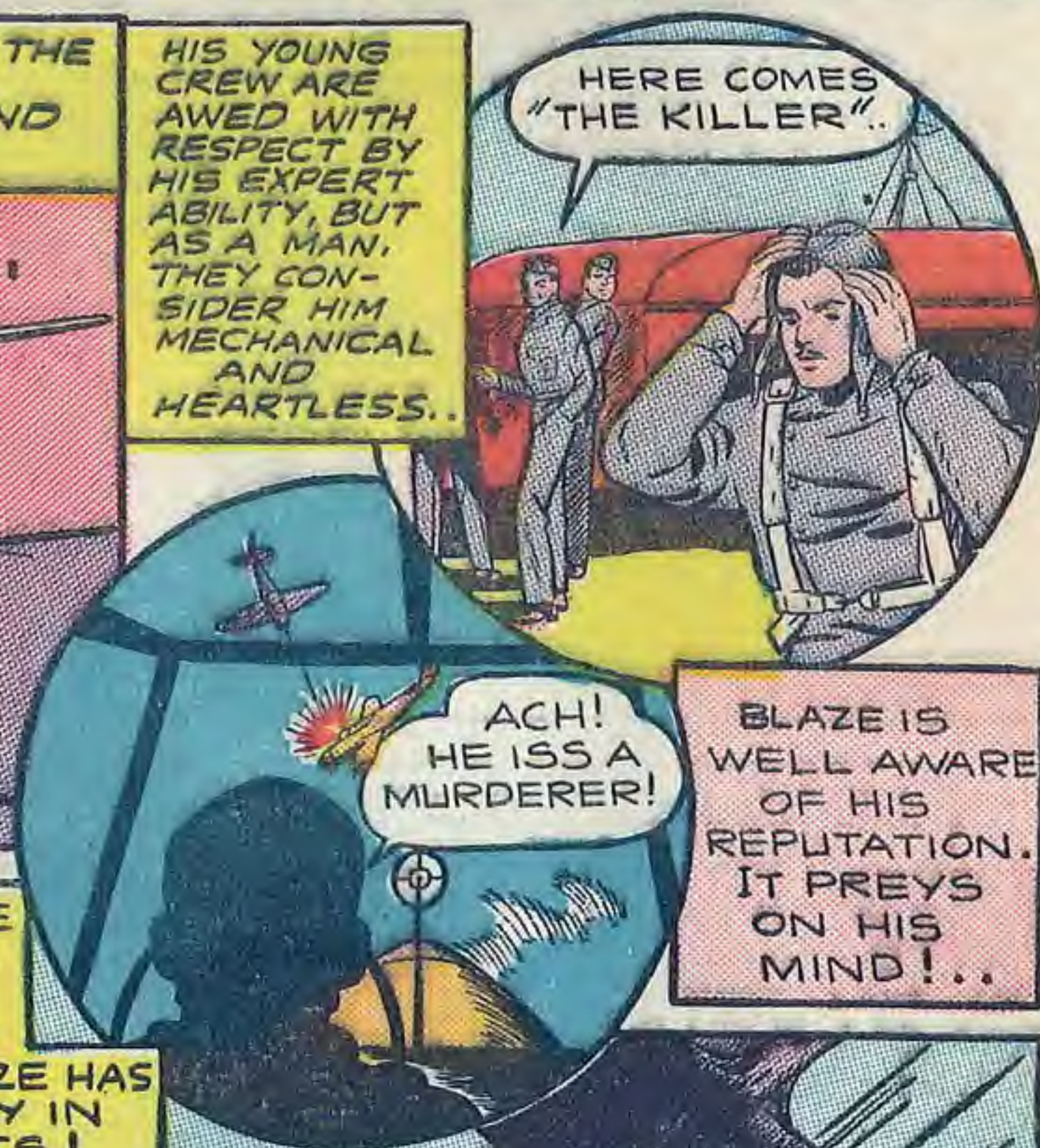
CAPTAIN BLAZE STEEL OF A.A.F. FAME HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY "LOANED" TO THE R.A.F. AS COMBAT INSTRUCTOR FOR GREEN FLIERS.

CAPTAIN STEEL'S REPUTATION IS NOT NEWS TO THE ENEMY... SHIP UPON SHIP OF THEIRS HE HAS BROUGHT EARTHWARD IN TWISTED METAL AND FLAMES.



HIS YOUNG CREW ARE AWED WITH RESPECT BY HIS EXPERT ABILITY, BUT AS A MAN, THEY CONSIDER HIM MECHANICAL AND HEARTLESS.

HERE COMES "THE KILLER"!



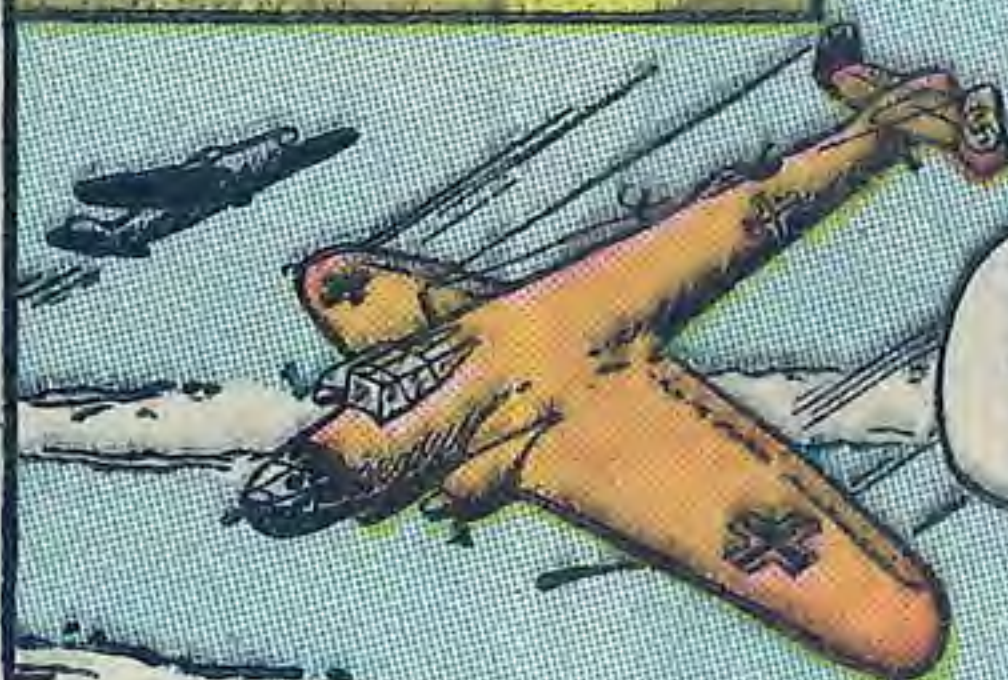
ACH! HE IS A MURDERER!

BLAZE IS WELL AWARE OF HIS REPUTATION. IT PREYS ON HIS MIND!...

AMONG HIS COMMAND IS LIEUT. WHITEY FORBES WHO, ENVIOUS OF TIM'S SUPERIOR PROWESS, RESENTS HIM BITTERLY.



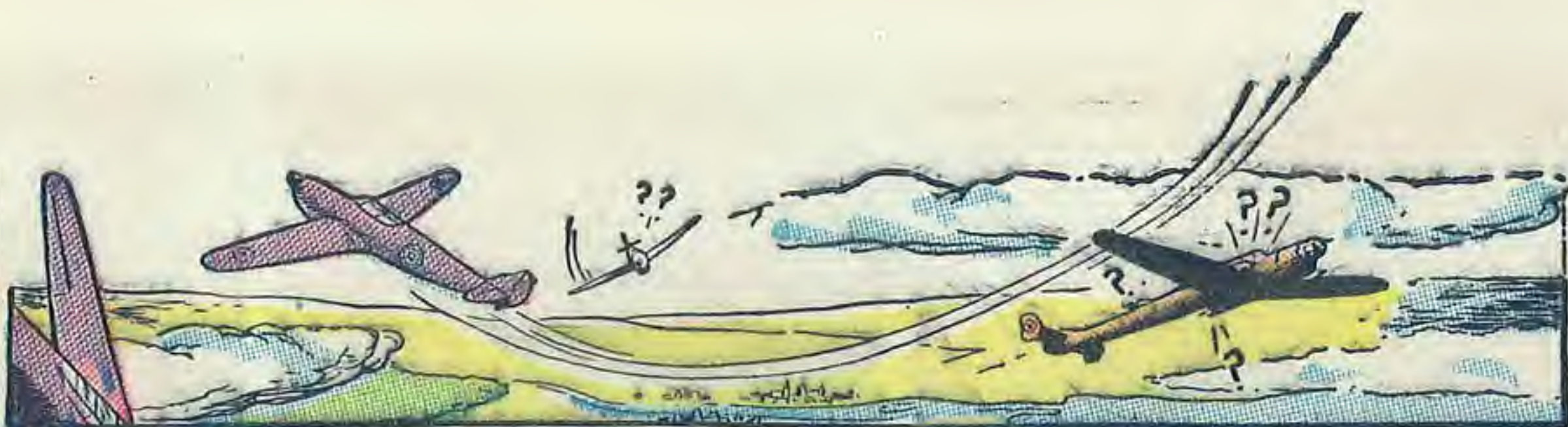
ONE DAY, WHILE REPELLING A SQUADRON OF JUNKERS BOMBERS, BLAZE HAS ONE SQUARELY IN HIS GUNSIGHTS!



WHAT'S THE USE... I CAN'T DO IT... ANOTHER KILLING ON MY RECORD DOESN'T HELP ME ANY. THE BOYS HATE ME AS IT IS.



THE AMERICAN ACE DOES NOT PRESS THE TRIPS ... AND LETS THE BOMBER ESCAPE!



HIS SQUADRON IS STAGGERED..

WHAT'S COME OVER HIM?

I NEVER HEARD OF A PILOT, AN ACE AT THAT, LET A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THAT GO BY!

YOU CRINGING TRAITOR!



YOU'RE A COWARD, STEEL!!



TAKE IT EASY, WHITEY!

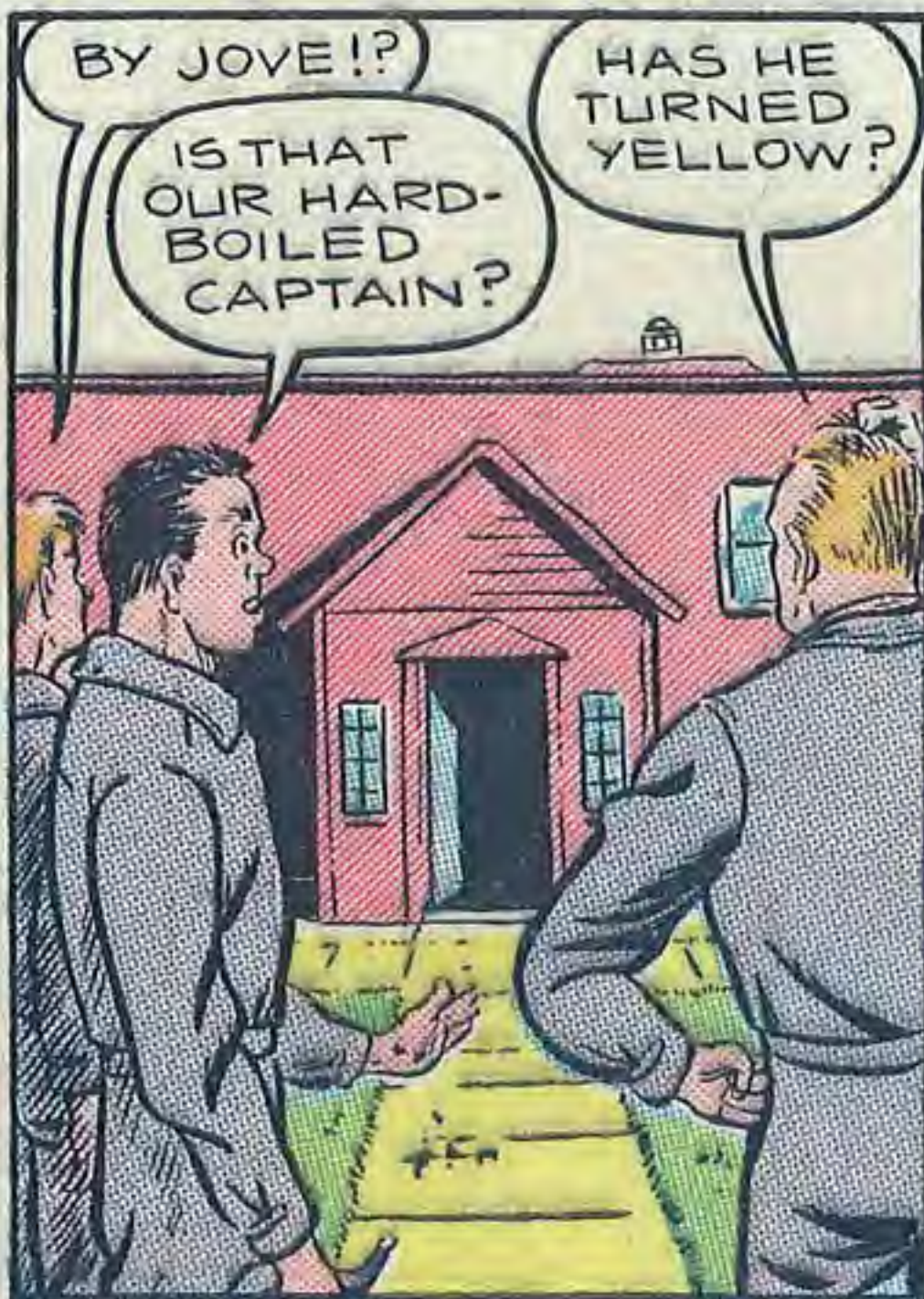
OH, LET HIM GO.. IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME!



BY JOVE!?

IS THAT OUR HARD-BOILED CAPTAIN?

HAS HE TURNED YELLOW?



AT MESS, THE MEN ARE SILENT AND SULLEN... TIM SENSES THE TENSION AND LEAVES AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY



RED BARTON ALONE REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COMMANDER.

GAD, HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR LEADER, BUT...

LET HIM ALONE! SOMETHING IS TROUBLING HIM...

QUITE... HIS TROUBLE IS WITH HIS BACKBONE!



MEANWHILE, THE DOWNCAST FLIER BROODS OVER THE MELLOW ENGLISH SUNSET..

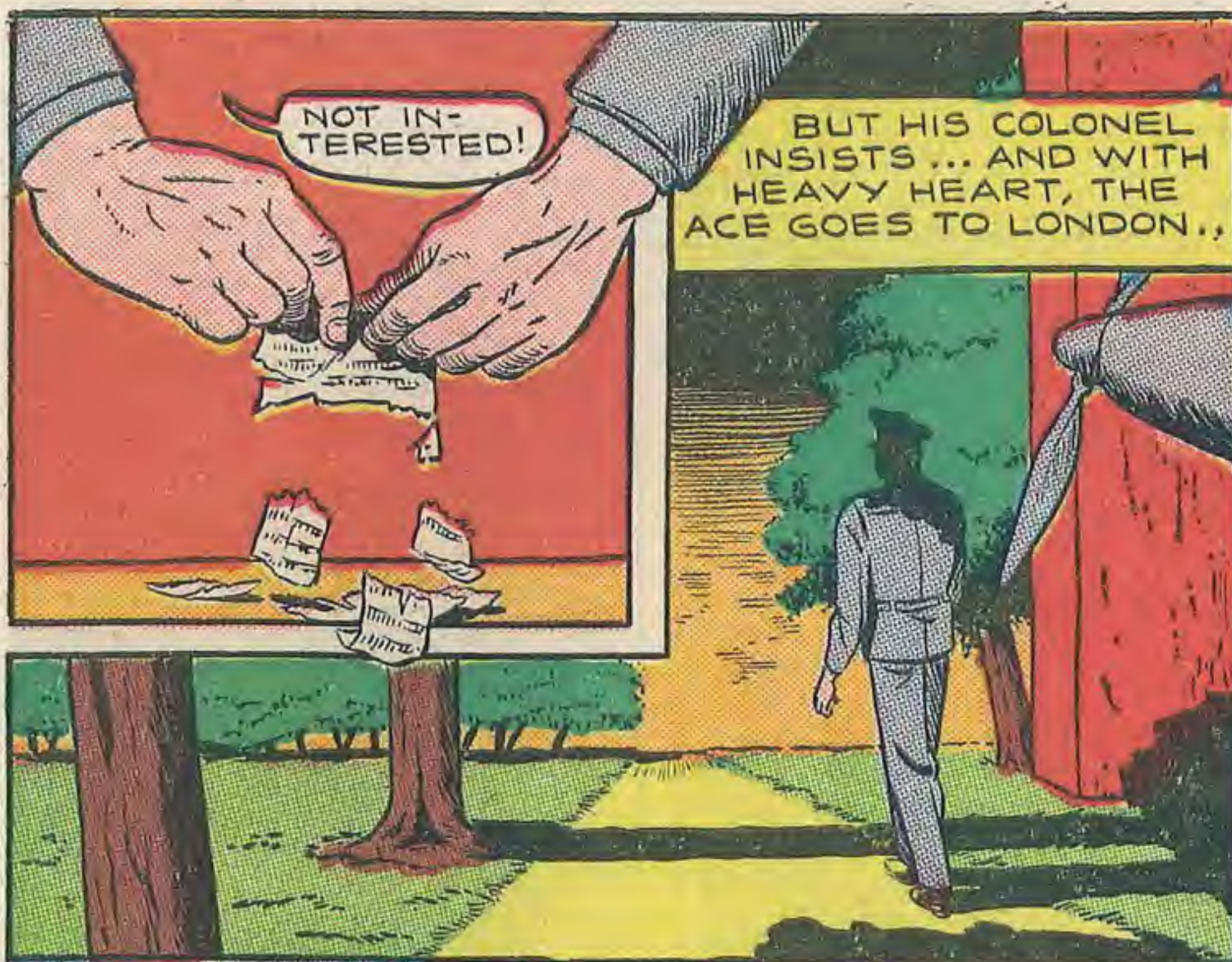


HE RETURNS TO FIND A FURLOUGH NOTICE ON HIS DESK!

INDEFINITE LEAVE OF ABSENCE, EH?..









RESCUE WORKERS GOUGE A TUNNEL THROUGH THE RUBBLE JOYFUL PEOPLE STREAM OUT..



BLAZE WALKS THE STREETS, SURVEYING THE WRECK-AGE OF THE EAST END HOUSES, WHEN THE KING APPEARS...



HIS MAJESTY CONSOLES A BEREAVED MOTHER....



ARE WE DOWN-HEARTED?..

NO!!



BOLDLY IGNORING HIS FURLOUGH, BLAZE RETURNS TO THE SQUADRON FIELD!



WHAT'RE YOU AFTER, WHITEY?

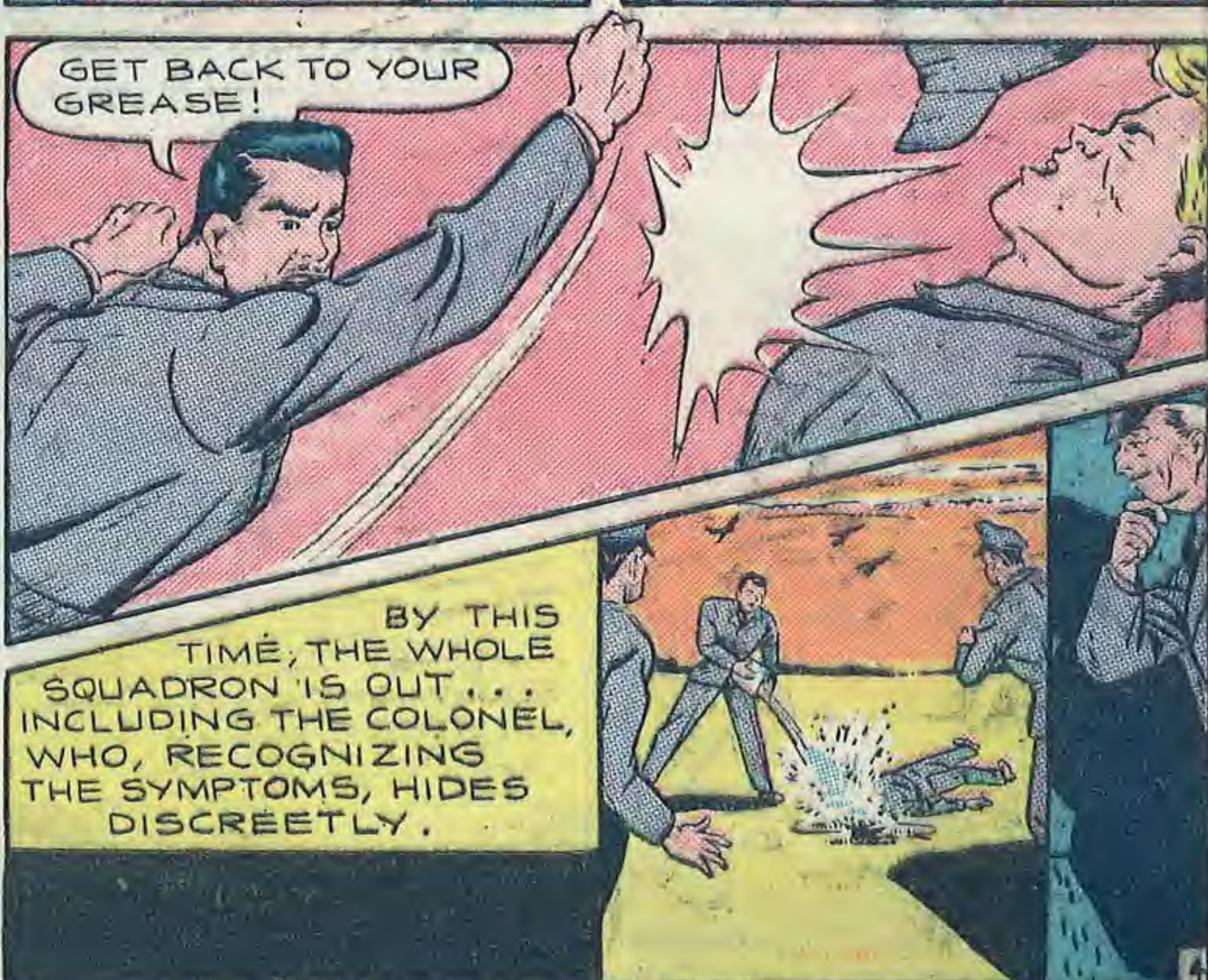
NO WINGS FOR A COWARD!!



YOU'RE STILL UNDER MY COMMAND, YOU BOOB!



GET BACK TO YOUR GREASE!

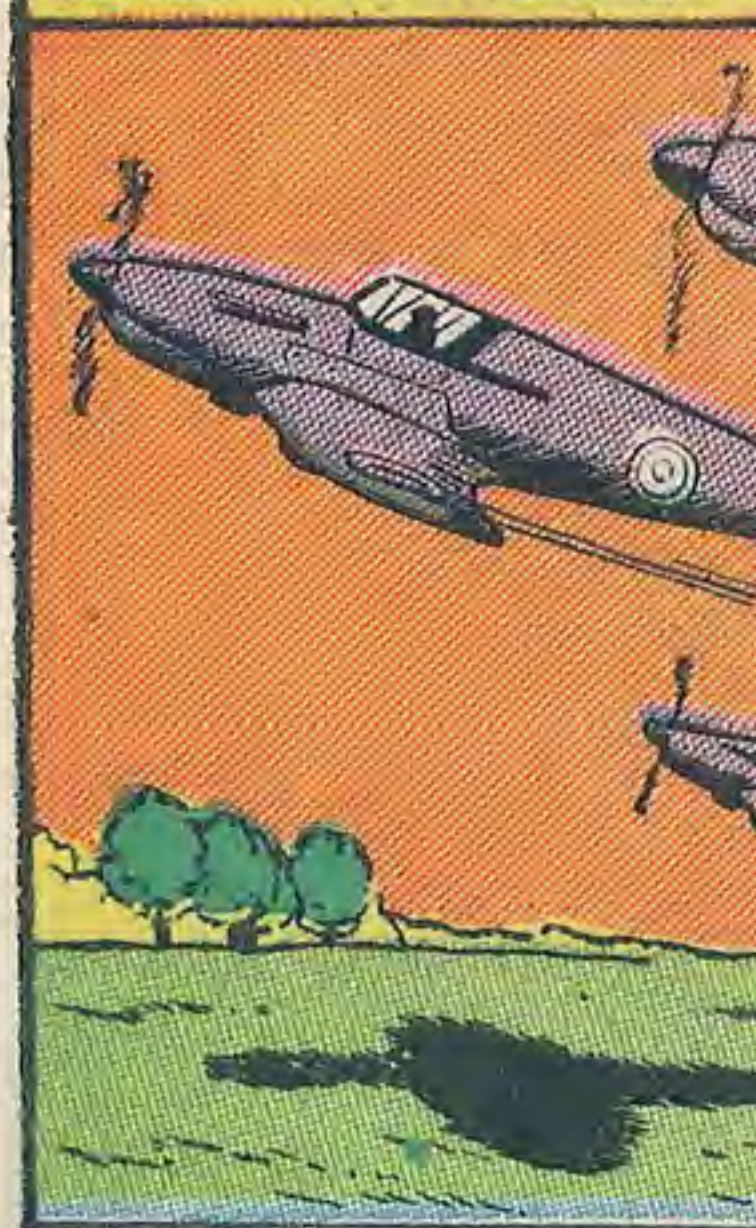


BY THIS TIME, THE WHOLE SQUADRON IS OUT... INCLUDING THE COLONEL, WHO, RECOGNIZING THE SYMPTOMS, HIDES DISCREETLY.

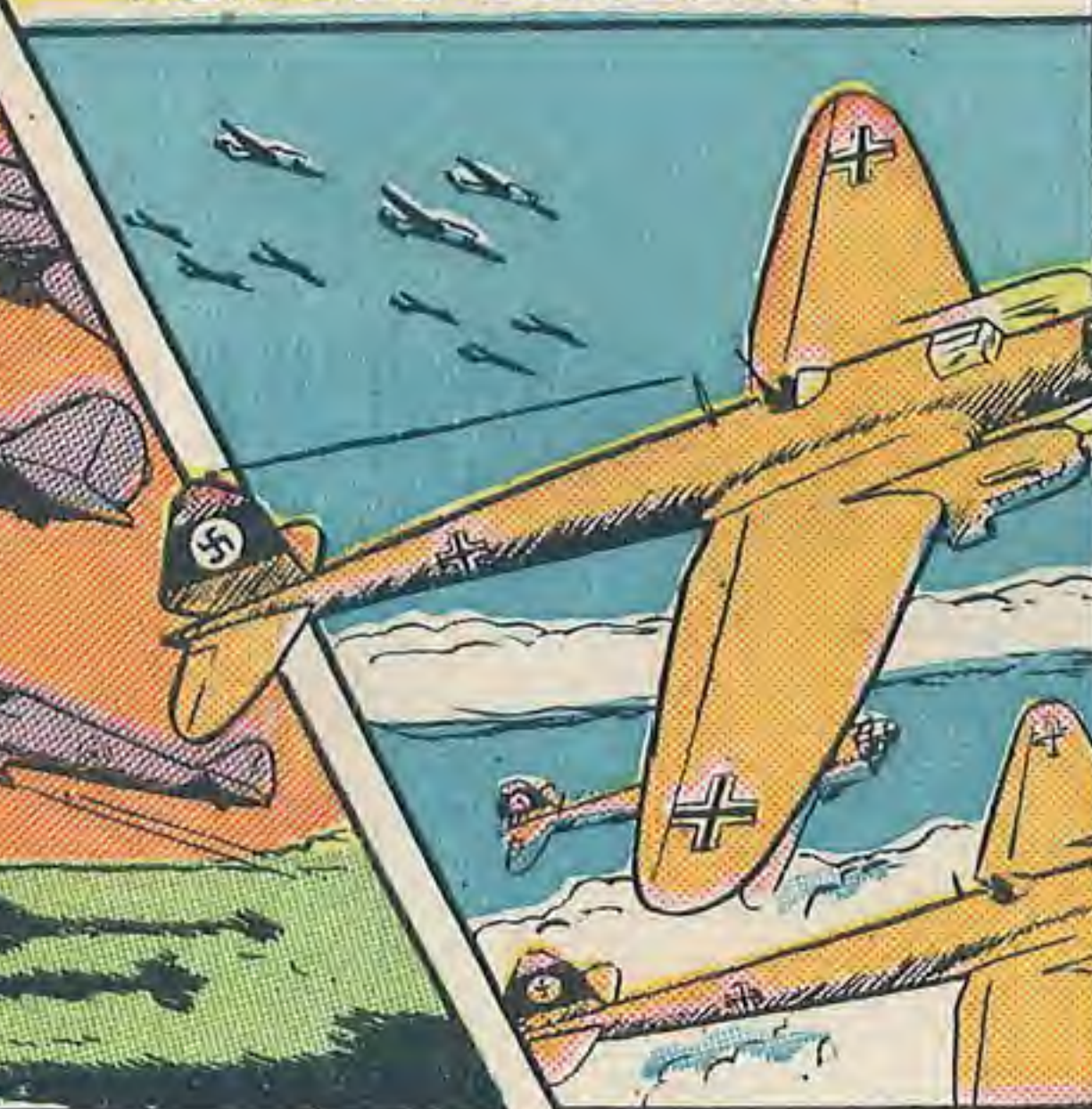




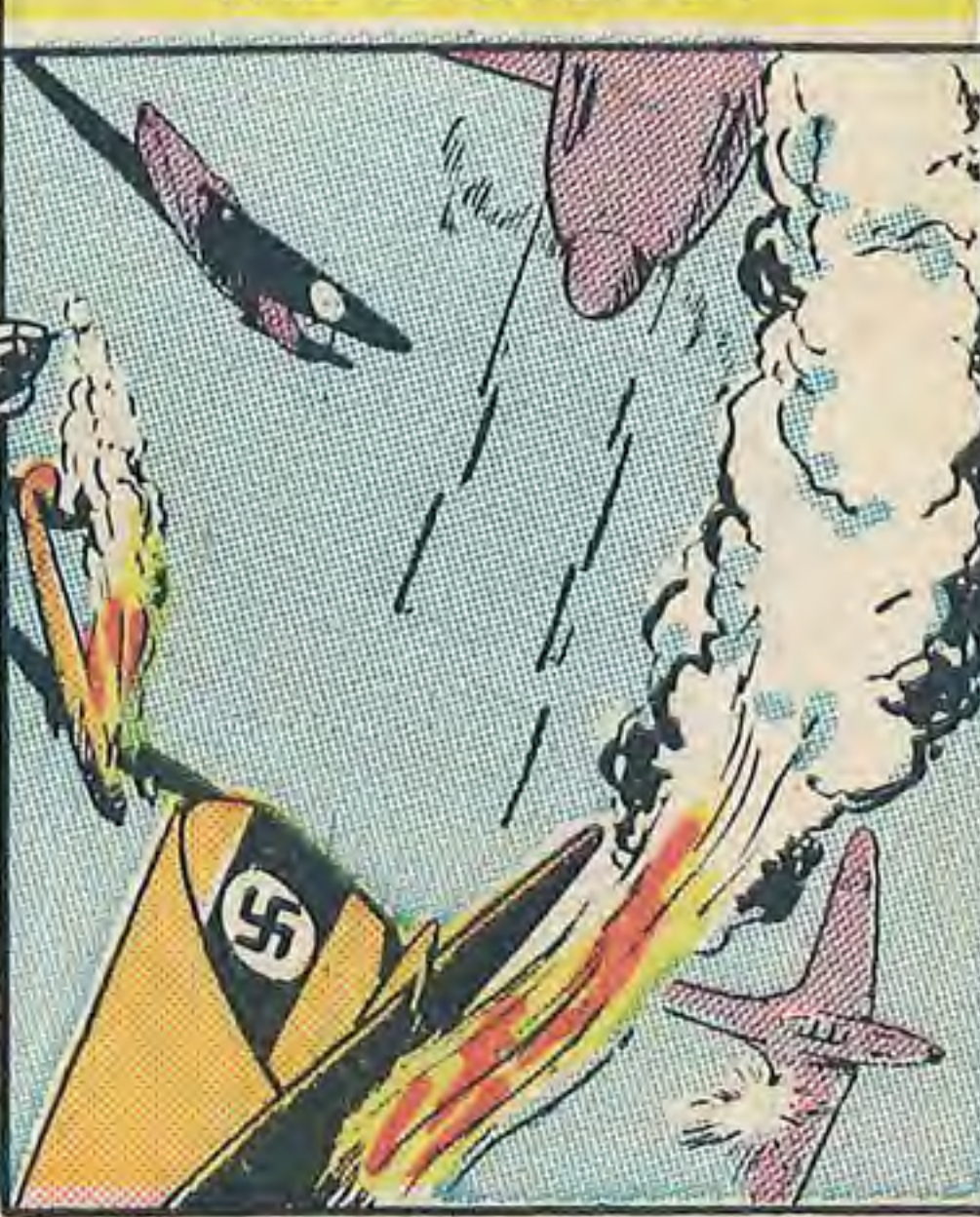
PROMPTLY, THE SPITFIRES FOLLOW BLAZE INTO THE SKY..



HIGH IN THE AIR, THEY SLAM INTO A SQUADRON OF HEINKEL BOMBERS!



THE ENEMY FALLS BEFORE THE EAGER FURY OF THE BRITONS!

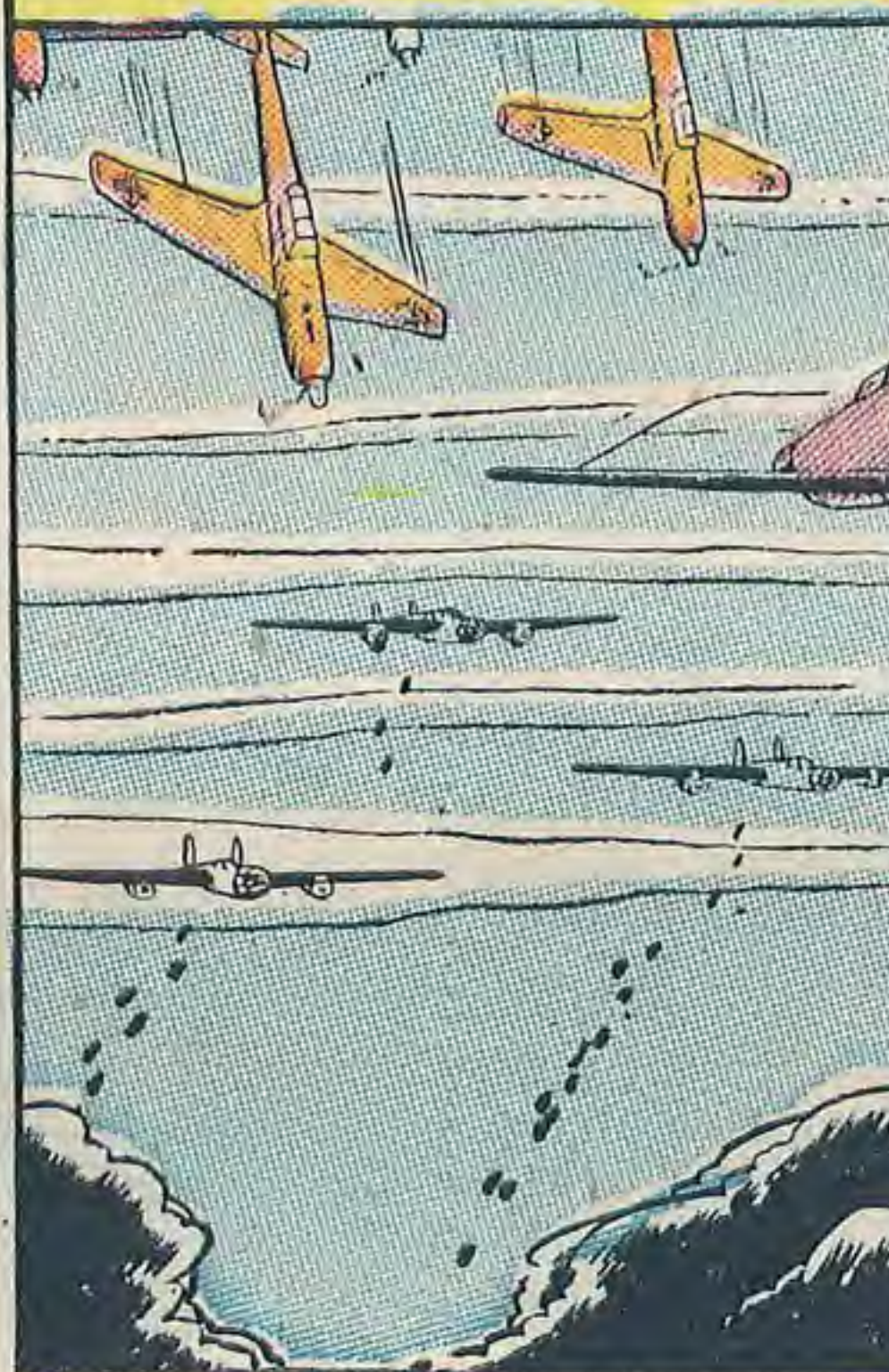


AND THE CRIPPLED HEINKELS ARE LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES...

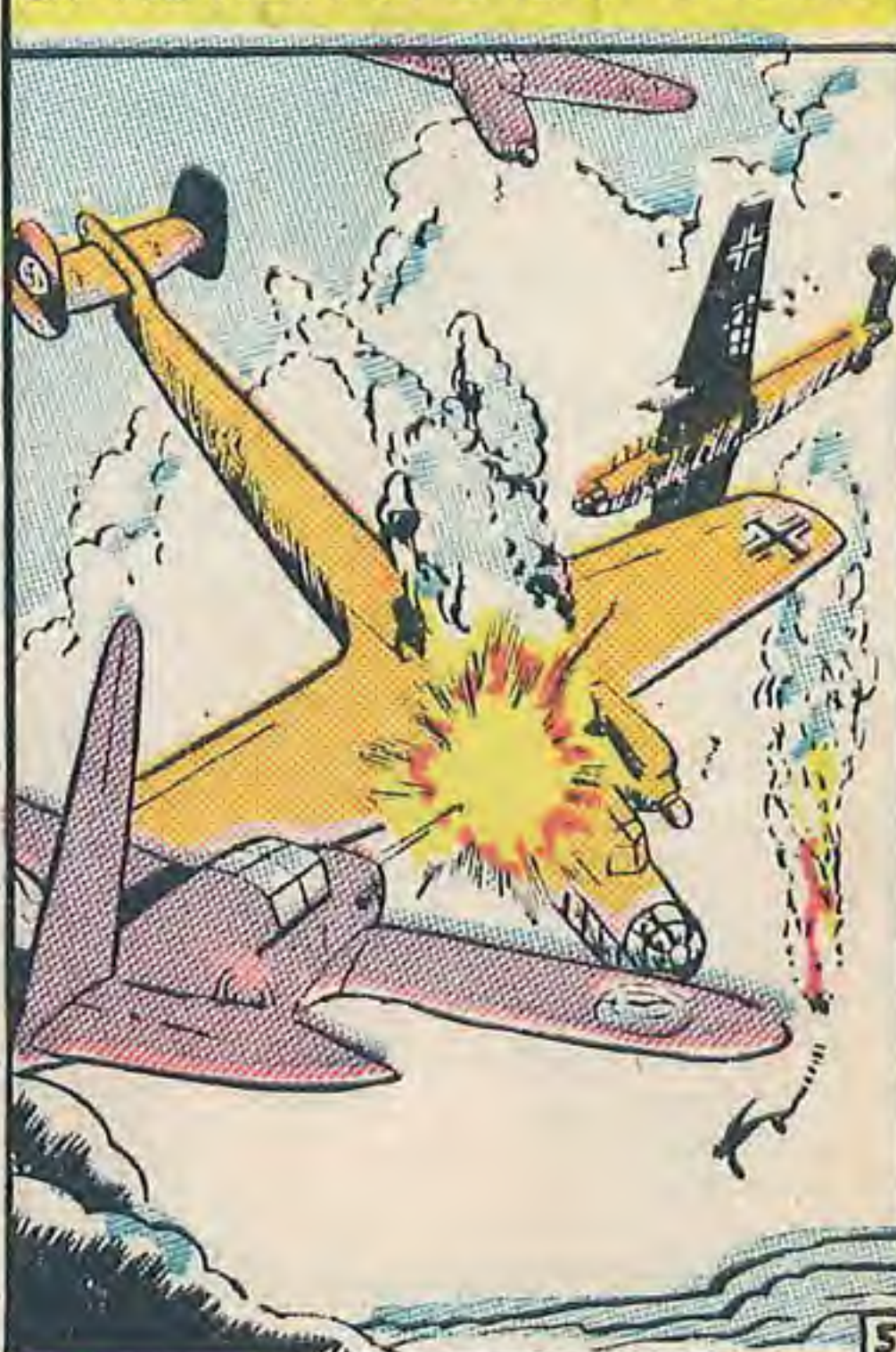
C'MON, BOYS, THERE ARE THE DORNIERS THAT BOMBED LONDON!



MANY MESSERSCHMITTS, HOWEVER, NOW ESCORT THE BOMBERS, OUT-NUMBERING TIM BADLY.



HEEDLESS, BLAZE RUSHES PAST THE FIGHTERS AND PLOUGHS INTO THE DORNIERS, PUTTING THEM OUT OF ACTION IN SHORT ORDER!





THE MESSERSCHMITTS FALL ON HIS SPITFIRES ... BUT HIS SQUADRON EXECUTES A NEAT LOOP AND HALF-ROLL.



THE NAZIS BREAK INTO FLIGHTS OF THREE EACH; THE BRITISH FOLLOW SUIT. A DOGFIGHT ENSUES!



WHITEY! DON'T BREAK FROM YOUR FORMATION! THAT NAZI PLANE ISN'T ALONE! THERE'S TWO ON YOUR TAIL!!

DRAT IT! FLIGHT 1 JOIN FLIGHT 3!!



THE CAPTAIN DARTS TO WHITEY'S RESCUE WITH ALL HIS GUNS BLAZING!



HE ZOOMS AND BAGS THE SECOND MESSERSCHMITT!



PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS AND APOLOGIES, CAPTAIN ... WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, SIR?

GET ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS, THIRD FRITZIE!



BACK AT THE AIRPORT:

JOVE! WHAT A MAN TO WORK UNDER!

BEST CAPTAIN! IN THE R.A.F.!

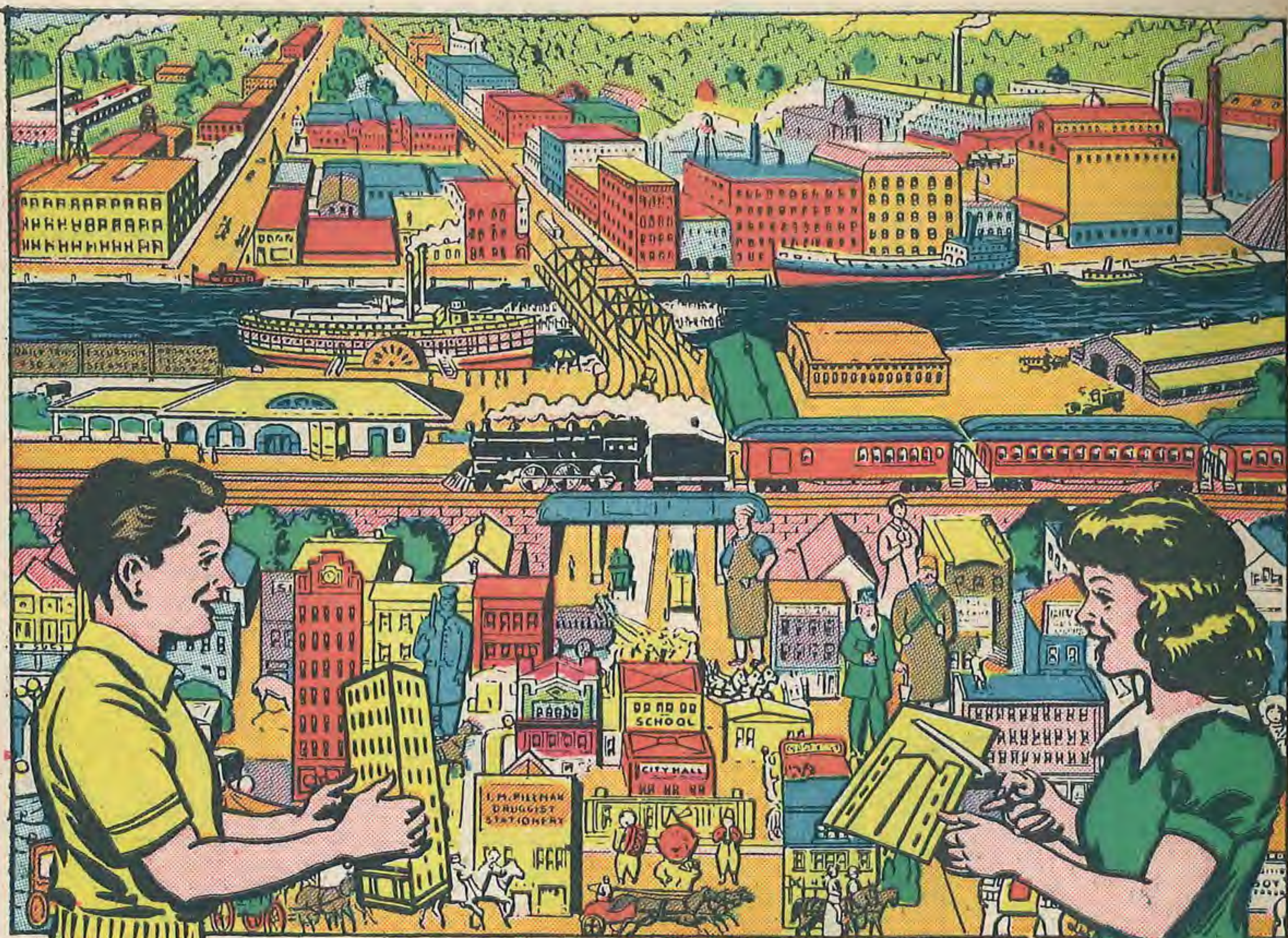
WE CAN'T LOSE WITH HIM!...



HAPPY TO HAVE FINALLY WON THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS MEN, CAPTAIN STEEL PLANS GREATER EXPLOITS FOR THE FUTURE.







# ANIMATED LILLIPUTANIA

## READY TO BUILD!

### FUN AND ADVENTURE WITH THIS STORY BOOK CITY OF 120 PIECES!

Yes, LILLIPUTANIA is a real miniature city you can build yourself. Complete with everything including a circus. It's all cut out so you have only to fold the buildings and place them on the street plan as marked. The giants and little people are all furnished even down to three small dogs. Complete in every detail you'll find LILLIPUTANIA interesting and hours of fun. Order today and get FREE gift we offer.

## 120 DIFFERENT PIECES

### BUILDINGS

Church  
Bell Boy's  
Cage  
Public School  
City Hall  
Garage  
Sky-Scraper  
Woman's  
Temple  
Clothing  
Store  
Toy Goods  
Store  
Bank Bldg.  
Furniture  
Store  
Dept. Store  
Grocery  
Hotel  
Post Office  
Hardware  
Store  
Shoe Store  
Long's  
Laundry  
Butcher Shop  
Drug Store  
Bakery

Paint Store  
Engine House  
Opera House  
View of City  
Street Plan  
Boy  
Girl  
**GIANTS**  
Police Chief  
Fire Chief  
Baker  
Butcher  
Professor  
Sailor  
Organ  
Grinder  
Chimpanzee  
Mrs. Dough  
Mrs. Bull  
**CIRCUS**  
Herald  
Band Wagon  
Hippo  
Wagon  
Lion Wagon  
Elephants  
Baby  
Elephants  
Giraffe

Barrel  
Rider  
Cowboy  
Cameo  
Gentleman  
Rider  
Lady Rider  
Chariot  
Rider  
Zebra  
Circus Tent  
Pony  
Monkey  
Rider  
Monkey  
Monkey and Dog  
Clown  
Clown and  
Drum  
Clown and  
Flute  
Ticket Office  
Lemonade  
Stand  
Fruit Stand  
Balloon  
**ACCESSORIES**  
Flower Tub  
Flowers  
American  
Flag



Aeroplane  
Street Car  
Hook and  
Ladder  
Fire Engine  
Fire Chief  
Auto  
Grocery  
Wagon  
Taxi  
Automobile  
Lamp Posts  
Bill Board  
News Stand  
Auto Truck  
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(I agree to pay extra charges if C.O.D.)

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# REMOVE UGLY BLACKHEADS OR NO COST

WOULD MARRY JIM IF  
IT WASN'T FOR THOSE  
FILTHY BLACKHEADS  
OF HIS

I'LL ASK BOB  
TO TALK TO  
HIM RIGHT  
AWAY

WHY DON'T YOU TRY  
VACUTEX FOR THOSE  
BLACKHEADS JIM? IT  
CERTAINLY HELPED ME

THANKS BOB.  
IT SOUNDS  
WORTH  
TRYING

JIM DARLING,  
HOW NICE AND  
CLEAN YOU  
LOOK!

YOU CAN THANK  
VACUTEX  
FOR THAT,  
HONEY!



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If you have blackheads, you know how embarrassing they are, how they clog your pores, mar your appearance and invite criticism. Now you can solve the problem of eliminating blackheads, forever, with this amazing new VACUTEX Inventon. It extracts filthy blackheads in seconds, painlessly, without injuring or squeezing the skin. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum around blackhead! Cleans out hard-to-reach places in a jiffy. Germ laden fingers never touch the skin. Simply place the direction finder over blackhead, draw back extractor . . . and it's out! Release extractor and blackhead is ejected. VACUTEX does it all! Don't risk infection with old-fashioned methods. Order TODAY!

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LENGTH  
3 1/2"

**ONLY  
THREE  
EASY  
STEPS**

**UGLY  
BLACKHEADS**

**USE  
VACUTEX**



**RUSH  
COUPON**

**Send No  
MONEY**

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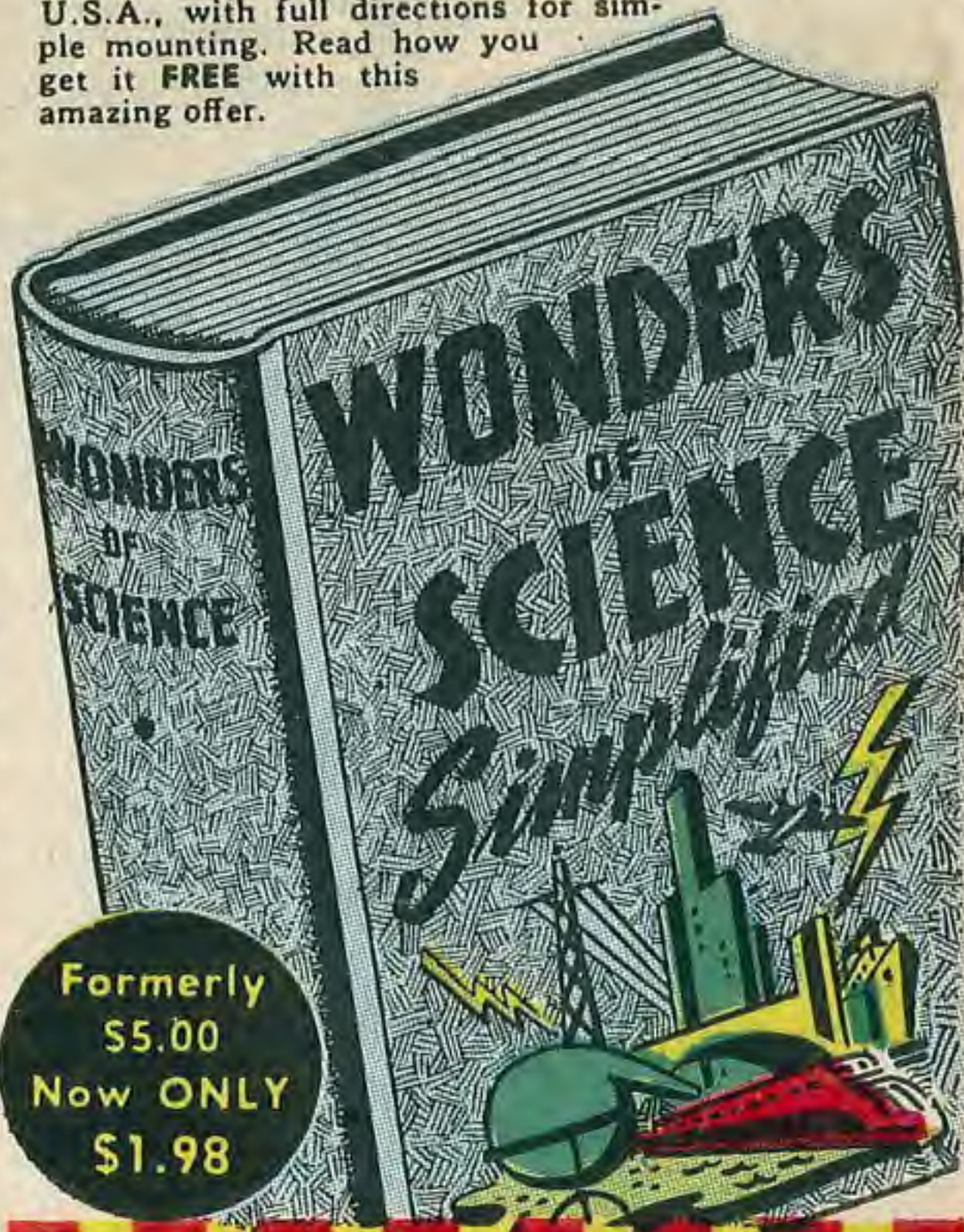
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